

**SPORTS REVIEW**

**SPECIAL HOROSCOPE SECTION!  
WHAT THE STARS HAVE IN STORE FOR THE STARS!**

April 1974

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# Wrestling

**IS THERE A PLOT  
TO WIPE OUT  
JOE LEDUC?**

**WHO ARE WRESTLING'S  
STRONGEST MEN?**

**You'll  
Never Believe  
What Happens  
When ...  
APARTMENT  
HOUSE  
WRESTLING  
GETS AN  
UNINVITED  
GUEST**

**A REFEREE  
ANSWERS YOUR  
QUESTIONS**

**THE MAN  
WITH THE  
IRON  
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**BARON VON  
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# FAN CLUB CORNER

**F**ANS KEEP REQUESTING information about how to start and operate a fan club. Though experience is always the best teacher, there are some rules and guidelines that can and should be followed.

There is only one absolutely necessary thing anyone wanting to start a fan club must have — the wrestler's permission. The permission must be in writing. It is needed for both the wrestler's and your protection.

So, how do you get in contact with a wrestler? Of course, one way is to go to the arena where the wrestler is appearing and ask him for an interview. However, professional wrestlers are very busy men whose lives are run by plane schedules and other commitments.

To make sure the wrestler is aware of your desire to start a fan club for him, write to him in care of the promoter at the arena where he is appearing. The chances are fairly good the wrestler will contact you and give written permission. Make sure you enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope so the wrestler can contact you.

Once you've received the permission, you are really on your own. Some things you should consider when you organize the club are:

a) How many members you can successfully handle;

b) What kind of bulletin you want to issue;

c) How much dues must be.

You will find other considerations that must be solved. Try to think through your entire operation before you begin.

Though there are people capable of running a fan club by themselves, it is a good idea to have two or three people to handle the work. Not only will there be a lessening of the responsibility

and labor, but two people always have more good ideas than one person.

The club will function better if there is a president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer. This way, each of these important jobs will be given full attention.

Once you are ready to begin the club, it will become necessary to advertise. If you send a copy of your permission slip and full details, we'll be happy to give you space in our FAN CLUB CORNER. This way, you'll be reaching the biggest audience of wrestling fans in the world. A way to get local support is to hand out circulars in arenas where the wrestler is appearing.

If you get into difficulties, do not ask the wrestler's help. These are very busy men and cannot afford to spare the time for fan club troubles. A wrestler should only be contacted for bulletin interviews and photos. Remember, a wrestler is only human. If you make a pest of yourself, he may be forced to ask you to discontinue the club.

A bulletin or newsletter should reflect the personality of both the wrestler and the fan club. However, there are areas which should be avoided. You should avoid any mention of the wrestler's private life unless you get his specific permission to publish the information. Besides, the members of your club will be more interested in the wrestler's matches and wrestling stories in general. This can be in any form — some fan clubs even have resident poets!

You must be willing to devote many hours of your time to make the fan club work. It's a lot of hard work. But it's also very rewarding. You'll make many new friends from all over the country with a common interest. If



*Pedro Morales is fortunate in many ways, not the least of which is his great fan club. President Beth Zane devotes much time and effort to it.*

you don't have the time to do justice to the club bearing the name of the wrestler you wish to honor, then *don't* start the club. You may be depriving someone else of the chance.

Here are a few fan club presidents who might help you. They talk from experience. Here are their names and addresses:

**GEOFF PORTZ FAN CLUB**  
Rosemary Lott  
34 Namy Crescent, Winnipeg,  
R2Y 0K5  
Manitoba, Canada

**JERRY JARRETT FAN CLUB**  
Linda Lee Scott  
Star Route, Riverview Drive  
Shepherdsville, Ky. 40165

**PEDRO MORALES FAN CLUB**  
Beth Zane  
11 Quaker Road  
Pennsville, N.J. 08070

Good luck!

## SPORTS REVIEW

# WRESTLING

### CONTENTS/APRIL 1974

- 3 **FAN CLUB CORNER**  
News from the wonderful world of fan clubs
- 6 **OFFICIAL WRESTLING RATINGS**  
See how your favorites rate—officially!
- 7 **YOU ASKED US!**  
The column YOU write!
- 10 **IS TONY ROCCO AFRAID TO GO HOME?**  
Luke Graham says "Yes, Tony's home town don't like chickens!"
- 14 **SINCERELY YOURS**  
Love us or hate us—here's your chance to sound off!
- 16 **BARON VON RASCHKE'S 10 MOST WANTED LIST!**  
He's out to destroy the top names in wrestling!
- 20 **EYE ON THE MAT WORLD**  
Come with us as our photographers take you behind the scenes
- 22 **VERNE GAGNE—AN AMERICAN INSTITUTION**  
Next to apple pie, Verne Gagne is next in line when you use the term All-American!
- 25 **BREAKING THE SIZE BARRIER**  
You don't have to be a heavyweight to be a top pro
- 26 **HOW BOBBY SHANE HELPED JERRY BRISCO SOLVE HIS BIGGEST PROBLEM**  
And Shane didn't even know he was helping Jerry!
- 28 **WHO ARE WRESTLING'S STRONGEST MEN?**  
An in-depth analysis of wrestling's most powerful giants
- 32 **A REFEREE ANSWERS YOUR QUESTIONS**  
You'll be amazed to learn what you never knew about refereeing!
- 34 **APARTMENT HOUSE WRESTLING GETS AN UNINVITED GUEST!**  
And you'll never believe what happened!
- 38 **"YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A TEENAGER TO BE TUNED IN"**  
That's what "hip" Ray Mendoza says
- 40 **THE MAN WITH THE IRON STOMACH**  
Marvel at the feats of Reggie Parks!
- 42 **JUANITA COFFMAN—ONE OF WRESTLING'S GREAT WOMEN**  
A great former wrestler now teaching upcoming stars
- 44 **IS THERE A PLOT TO RUB OUT JOE LEDUC?**  
All signs point to it
- 45 **WHAT THE STARS SAY ABOUT THE STARS**  
Your favorite wrestlers' horoscope revealed!

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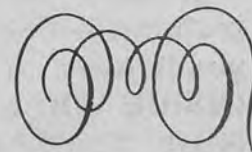
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**TONY LANZA**

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*Photographers*



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# OFFICIAL WRESTLING RATINGS

## WORLD WIDE WRESTLING FEDERATION

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- 1— PEDRO MORALES
- 2— CHIEF JAY STRONGBOW
- 3— LARRY HENNIG
- 4— ANDRE THE GIANT
- 5— DON LEO JONATHAN
- 6— BLACKJACK LANZA
- 7— STAN STASIAK
- 8— TONY GAREA
- 9— MIKE MCCORD
- 10— DEAN HO

## AMERICAN WRESTLING ASSOCIATION

CHAMPION: VERNE GAGNE

- 1— BILLY GRAHAM
- 2— BILLY ROBINSON
- 3— CRUSHER
- 4— RAY STEVENS
- 5— NICK BOCKWINKLE
- 6— IVAN KOLOFF
- 7— RED BASTIEN
- 8— LARRY HEINIMI
- 9— KEN PATERA
- 10— GEOFF PORTZ

## MIDGETS

- 1— LORD LITTLEBROOK
- 2— LITTLE BEAVER
- 3— SKY LOW LOW
- 4— LITTLE BRUISER
- 5— FRENCHY LAMONT
- 6— LITTLE BRUTUS
- 7— TOM POUCE
- 8— LITTLE LOUIE
- 9— FARMER JEROME
- 10— HAITI KID



TERRY FUNK



BRUNO SAMMARTINO

## NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE

- 1— JACK BRISCO
- 2— TERRY FUNK
- 3— DORY FUNK JR.
- 4— THE SHEIK
- 5— TIM WOODS
- 6— JOHN TOLOS
- 7— BOBO BRAZIL
- 8— PAT PATTERSON
- 9— HARLEY RACE
- 10— GENE KINISKI

## TAG TEAMS

- 1— RAY STEVENS & NICK BOCKWINKLE
- 2— BRUNO SAMMARTINO & BRUISER
- 3— PROFESSOR TANAKA & MR. FUGI
- 4— BEN JUSTICE & KILLER BROOKS
- 5— MIKE GEORGE & JIM BRUNZELL
- 6— THE FABULOUS KANGAROOS
- 7— ANDRE THE GIANT & CHIEF JAY STRONGBOW
- 8— LORD AL HAYS & ROGER KIRBY
- 9— ROBERT FULLER & BOB ARMSTRONG
- 10— GOLIATH & BLACK GORDMAN

## WOMEN

- 1— FABULOUS MOOLAH
- 2— VIVIAN VACHON
- 3— VICKI WILLIAMS
- 4— MARIA LAVERNE
- 5— KAY NOBLE
- 6— BETTY NICCOLI
- 7— SUE GREEN
- 8— DONNA CHRISTENELLO
- 9— JOYCE GRABLE
- 10— LILY THOMAS



IVAN KOLOFF



STAN STASIAK



# YOU ASKED US

**Okay fans. You asked for it and here it is. Each month either INSIDE WRESTLING or THE WRESTLER will publish *your* column—"YOU ASKED US." Just jot down a question and the wrestler you'd like us to ask it to and send it to: You Asked Us, THE WRESTLER, P.O. Box 58, Rockville Centre, N.Y. 11571. Questions will be answered only in this column.**

**Q:** I was under the impression that hitting with a clenched fist is illegal. So why is Stan Stasiak's heart punch allowed? — Edy Baruch, Brooklyn, N.Y.

**A:** It's not allowed. Stasiak gets away with it anyhow. The only time it's legal is during a Texas Death Match.

**Q:** I'd like to know if Andre The Giant would pay a visit to my school — Richard Minzer, Portchester, N.Y.

**A:** "I'd love to," Andre said, "but I definitely do not have the time. I'm on the road almost seven days a week. Thank you for the invitation, Richard."

**Q:** Ask Ernie Ladd why he wears tape on his thumb and why he doesn't let the referee examine it. — Scott Romer, Indianapolis, Ind.

**A:** "My thumb has a chronic injury," Ladd said. "Referees have a bad habit of bending it when they examine it and it hurts like an S.O.B. If they were more careful I *might* consider letting them examine it."

**Q:** Did Chief Jay Strongbow really smash a two-by-four over Lou Albano's arm, breaking the arm? — Paul Ashworth, Ashland, Mass.

**A:** "That's what Albano wants everyone to think," Strongbow said. "Of course I didn't. That's nonsense. He must've broken it tripping over a pin or something. That's how graceful that tub of lard is!"

**Q:** Is "Handsome" Jim Valiant scared to wrestle Bruiser or Bruno in a cage match? — Scott Slutsky, Skokie, Ill.

**A:** "Hell no!" Valiant exclaimed. "If anyone's chicken, it's those two yellow bellies—not Handsome Jim



*Did Chief Jay Strongbow and Andre The Giant bust Lou Albano's arm? "Of course not," the Chief swears.*

Valiant. I fear no one!"

**Q:** Will Paul Jones ever wrestle Dusty Rhodes in a Texas Death Match again? — Mary Herber, Orlando, Fla.

**A:** "If Rhodes has the guts to get into the ring with me, I'll be willing. Death matches are right up my alley. I like them."

**Q:** Why don't Jack and Jerry Brisco team up? — Tony Espanza, Charlotte, N.C.

**A:** They do team on occasion Tony. But Jack prefers to concentrate on defending his single world title rather than team up.

**Q:** Has The Sheik ended his multi-year-long feud with Bobo Brazil—Terry Luther, Buffalo, N.Y.

**A:** Absolutely not. Their feud is just as hot and heavy as it's ever been.

**Q:** Have Chris and John Tolos split up for ever? — Marsha Green, Hamilton, Ontario

**A:** "We have no plans to reunite at present," John said. "Right now

I'm interested in single titles and so's Chris."

**Q:** Does Haystacks Calhoun like refereeing matches? — Peter Estrow, Portland, Oregon

**A:** "Yes, I do," Haystacks said. "It gives me a chance to enforce the rules the way I see fit. However, I never play favorites."

**Q:** Will Lord Al Hays turn to scientific wrestling again? I'm heartbroken that he's a rulebreaker — Janice Morella, Amarillo, Tex.

**A:** "That depends," Hays said. "If the only way I can get fair breaks in this business is by breaking rules now and then, that's the style I'll have to stick by."

**Q:** How come Crusher and Bruiser split up? — Mark Tenafly, Indianapolis, Ind.

**A:** "I get itchy staying in one place too long," Crusher said. "Bruiser and I always get together after a year or so of separation so don't worry. It's not a permanent split."

**Q:** How come Blackjack Lanza never got a title shot at Pedro Morales' W.W.W.F. championship? — Gary Ungerman, Brooklyn, N.Y.

**A:** "You got me," a puzzled Lanza said. "I can't understand it. I've beaten everyone in my path. All I can figure out is that he's too chicken to wrestle me, that's all."

**Q:** Why doesn't Bobby Shane admit that he's just not as good as Jack Brisco? — Walter Egelski, Atlanta, Ga.

**A:** "Why should I lie?" Shane asked. "If he was better I'd admit it. But he's not so I will not please you, Mr. Egelski, with the answer you want." □

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JUNE/69



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APR/71



JUNE/71



AUG/71



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NOV/71



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MAY/72



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JULY/72



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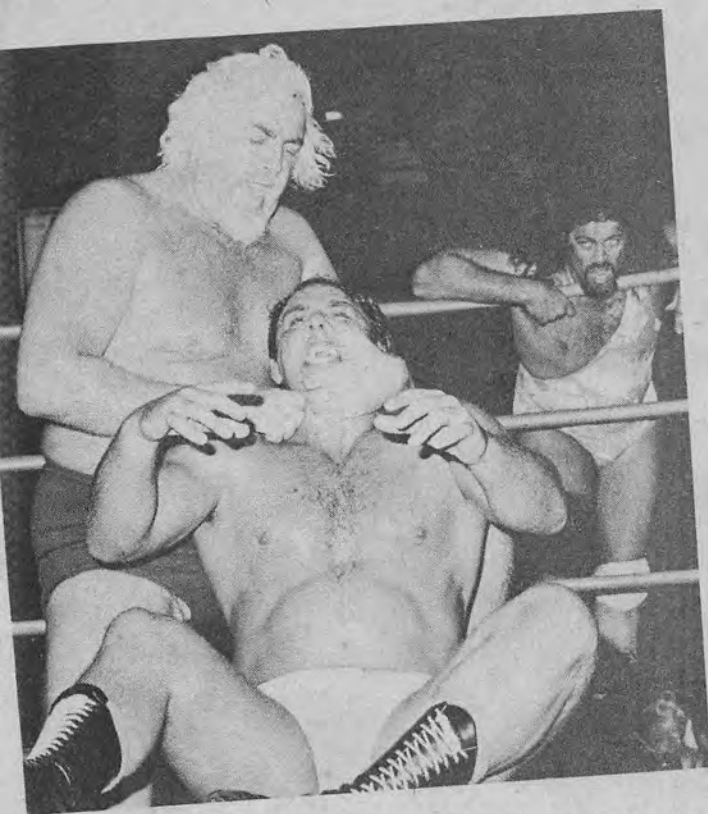
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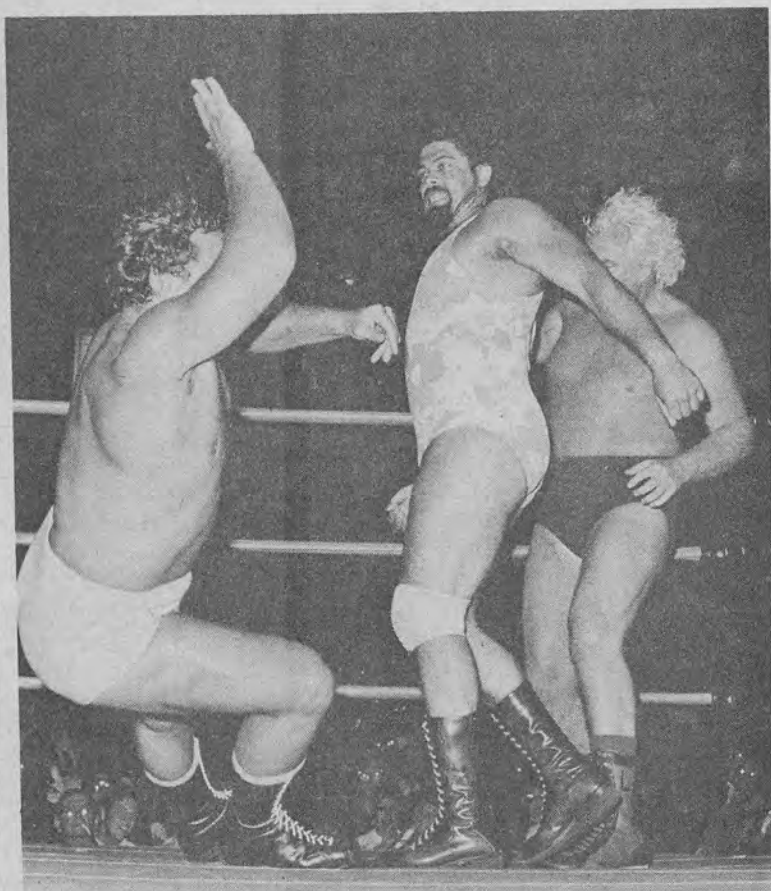
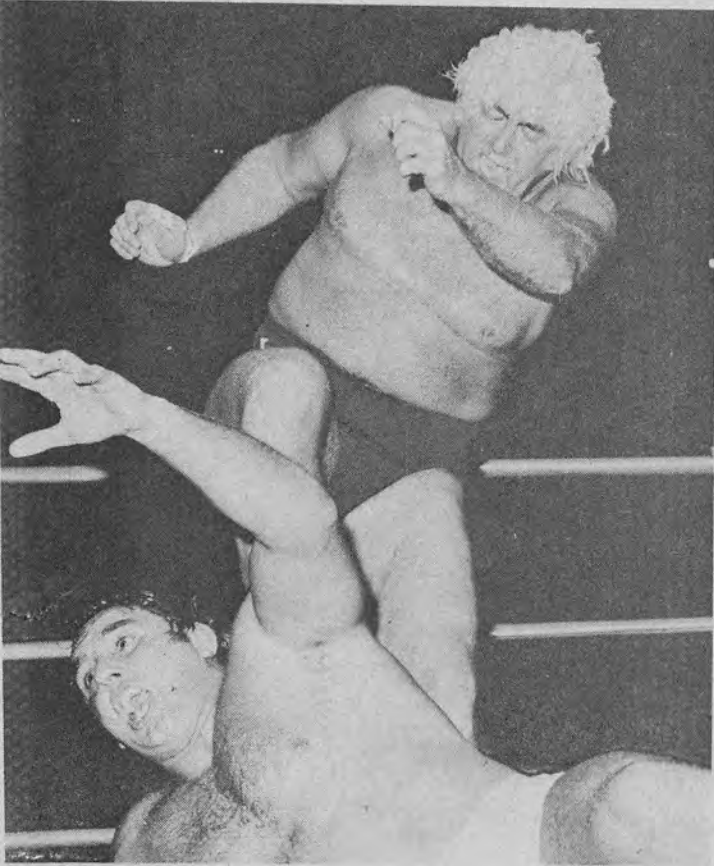
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# IS TONY AFRAID



*The pain is excruciating as Luke Graham digs his nails into Tony Rocco (above). When Graham tires of this, he kicks Tony (below) squarely between the shoulder blades. Was he beaten so badly that he fled California in shame? Graham says so.*



*Above: Luke Graham and the California Beast take turns pounding their fists into Tony Rocco. Graham and Beast are claiming this beating so shamed Tony that he ran all the way to the cold of Canada. Tony denies this, and the facts seem to back him up. He is in Canada, but has plans to return to his hometown of Los Angeles soon.*

**T**ONY ROCCO IS stirrin' up a storm by annihilating opponents in Canada. The fans love him. Tony seems happy there.

Before Tony invaded Canada he was very active in the mat wars in southern California. Why'd he leave?

"I just got an itch to travel and meet new competition," he said. "I wanted a change, a chance to wrestle men I've never gotten into the ring with."

Tony left California shortly after a brutal match in which he and rookie Mando Lopez squared off against "Crazy" Luke Graham and The Beastman.

"That match *made* him leave Ca-



# ROCCO TO GO HOME?

lifornia," Luke Graham said about a week after Tony went to Canada. "Me and the Beastman wiped the floor with that two-bit, so-called wrestler. He's so embarrassed he's afraid to come back to California. Even though me and Beastman will be leaving soon, we know that Rocco doesn't have the guts to show his face here again. Chickens don't like to show their faces."

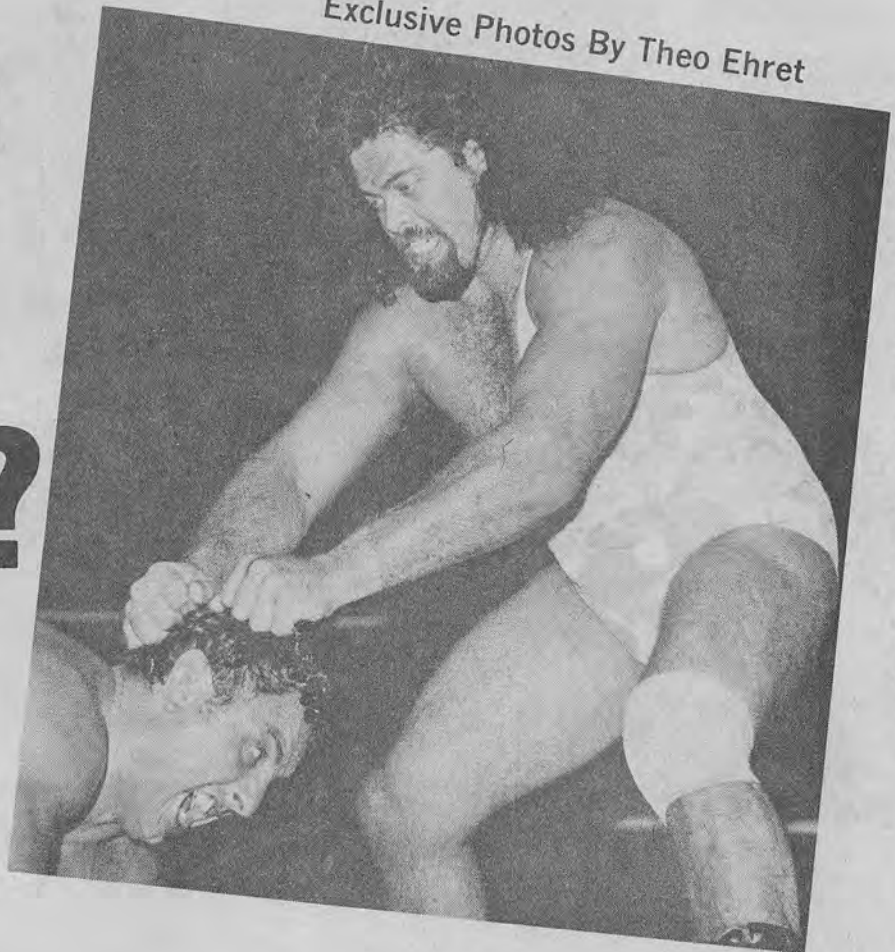
Admittedly, Tony didn't have an easy time with Luke and The Beastman, but he claims it wasn't bad enough to make him leave town.

"Of course not," Tony stressed. "Graham only wants to make it look that way. He's taking credit for something he didn't and couldn't do."

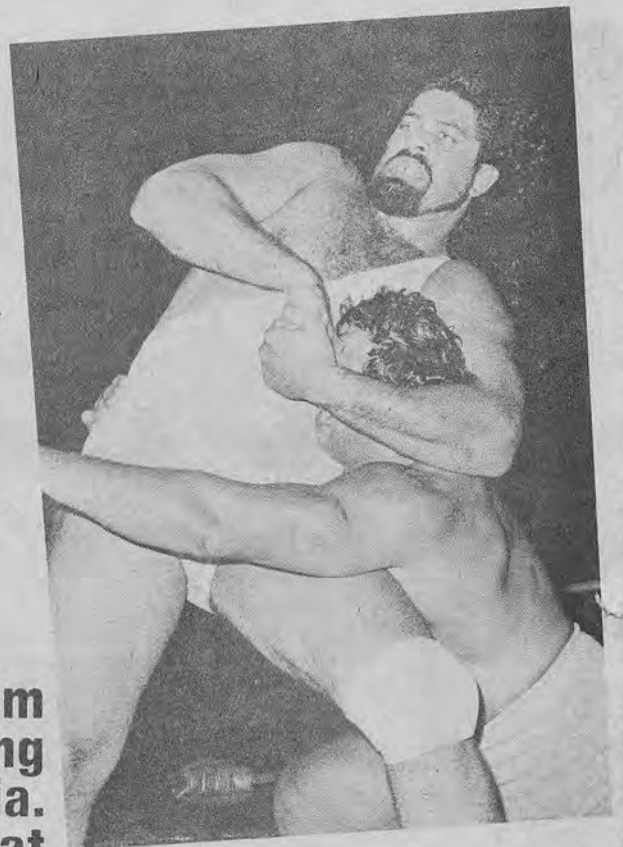
"Look, I'm not supposed to take sides," the promoter of the match said, "but Graham and Beastman didn't run Tony out of town. He's taken bad beatings before and never felt embarrassed enough to run out of town. I think Luke is just trying to make himself look good."

"Tony told me he was leaving California weeks before the match took place," noted Victor Rivera. "He planned on going to Canada. Graham had nothing to do with it. Absolutely nothing." (continued)

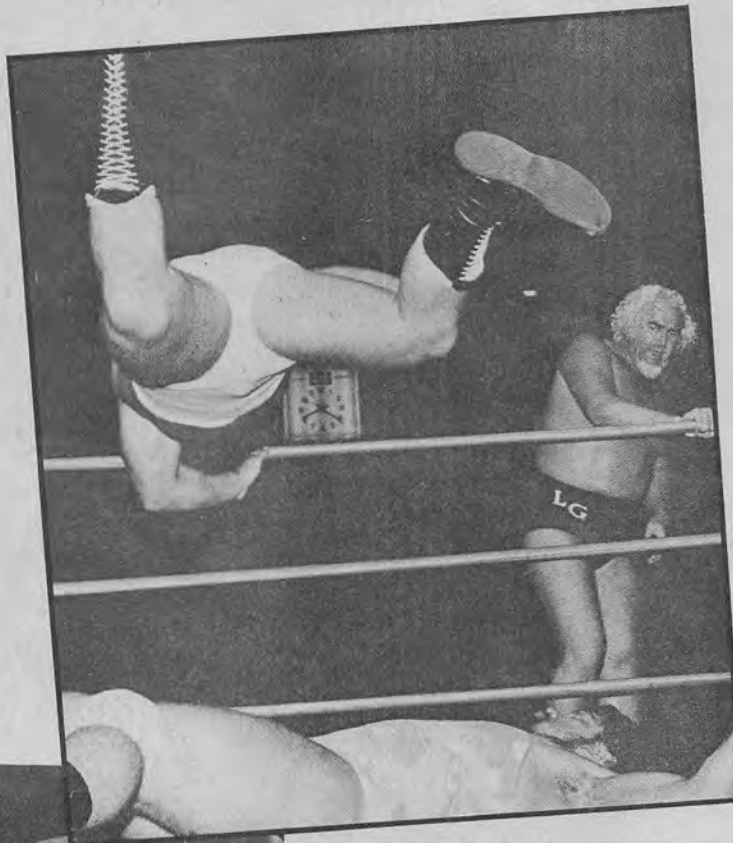
Exclusive Photos By Theo Ehret



*Above: The California Beast drags the hapless Tony Rocco around the ring by his hair. He is setting Tony up for a brutal kick to the face. Right: Beast tries to crush Rocco's skull, while Tony can do nothing but flounder helplessly and in pain. Was the punishment Tony had to absorb during this match so devastating that he decided to flee in fear to Canada? Nobody knows.*



**The Beastman and Luke Graham are taking credit for running Tony Rocco out of California. How much truth is there in what they say?**



*Left: It isn't Tony's night. He executes a beautiful flying dropkick, but will land on the California Beast's knee. When Graham sees Tony writhing in pain, he jumps in.*



*Left: Luke Graham sweeps Tony Rocco off his feet, preparing to slam him brutally into the mat. Mando Lopez, Tony's tag team partner, can't help as Tony is twisted in pain in the middle of the ring. The back of Tony Rocco was a favorite Luke Graham-California Beast target all night. Below: One of the matches few pleasant memories for Tony is a great smash to Beast's open face. The Beast is flattened by the punch. The match might have ended then if Graham hadn't jumped illegally into the ring.*



The promoter in Canada also verified that he'd been dealing with Tony for several weeks.

"That's right," he said. "Tony got in touch with me a long time ago. He was anxious to get started here. So, after his last commitment, which was that tag team match, he packed up and left. It's as simple as that. I don't know what Luke Graham is trying to prove, but if he wants to prove that he can run Tony out of town, I'd love to make a 'loser leave town match' with the two of them."

"That's a great idea," Rocco agreed. "If Luke Graham is man enough to step in the ring with me, I'll take that loser leave town match."

Graham has some reservations about it.

"Look," Graham pointed out. "I don't have to prove nothin'. Everyone knows I'm a hell of a lot better than Tony Rocco. Why do I have to show it a second time? What kind of guy is he? Does he want to be embarrassed in front of Canadian fans too? I was willin' to let him alone so he'd make some dough. Naw, I don't want to ruin the man's career. I just want everyone to know I'm better than him."

"If it comes to a showdown match, Rocco had better have his bags packed a week before the match. First of all, I don't even think he'll show up for it."

"Oh yeah," Rocco shrugged when he heard of Luke's claim. "Listen, I'm willing take on him and that Beastman guy both at the same time. As a matter of fact, let me look at things this way. How do I know that they didn't leave California because of the beating I gave them? I'd like to hear them prove different."

"I go on tour because I run out of competition," The Beastman claimed. "Rocco no competition. Me beat him easy many, many times. He not admit it, though."



*The Beast has no chance to escape the boomerang of Tony Rocco. Beast, who is also known as California Beast and Beastman, is flipped across the ring to land smashing on his aching face and chest.*

"I left California for the same reason," Graham said from his Georgia base. "My good buddy Cowboy Bill Watts asked me to team up with him here. We make a great team. We're unbeatable. Rocco says he ran me out of town? Ha! That's the funniest joke I've ever heard. He's a great comedian. I don't know when I laughed so hard. Ha, ha, ha!"

Will Tony go back to California to prove he's not too embarrassed to show his face?

"Not right away," he said. "I'm completely booked in Canada and I intend to honor my commitments. I'm sure that my fans haven't lost any respect for me and know that I'm not afraid to show my face."

"I'm with Tony all the way," said Estella Marquell, a Los Angeles fan. "I saw that match and Tony *did* take a beating. But he's taken worse. Graham couldn't force Tony out of town. I know he'll come back and prove to all of us that he's not a chicken."

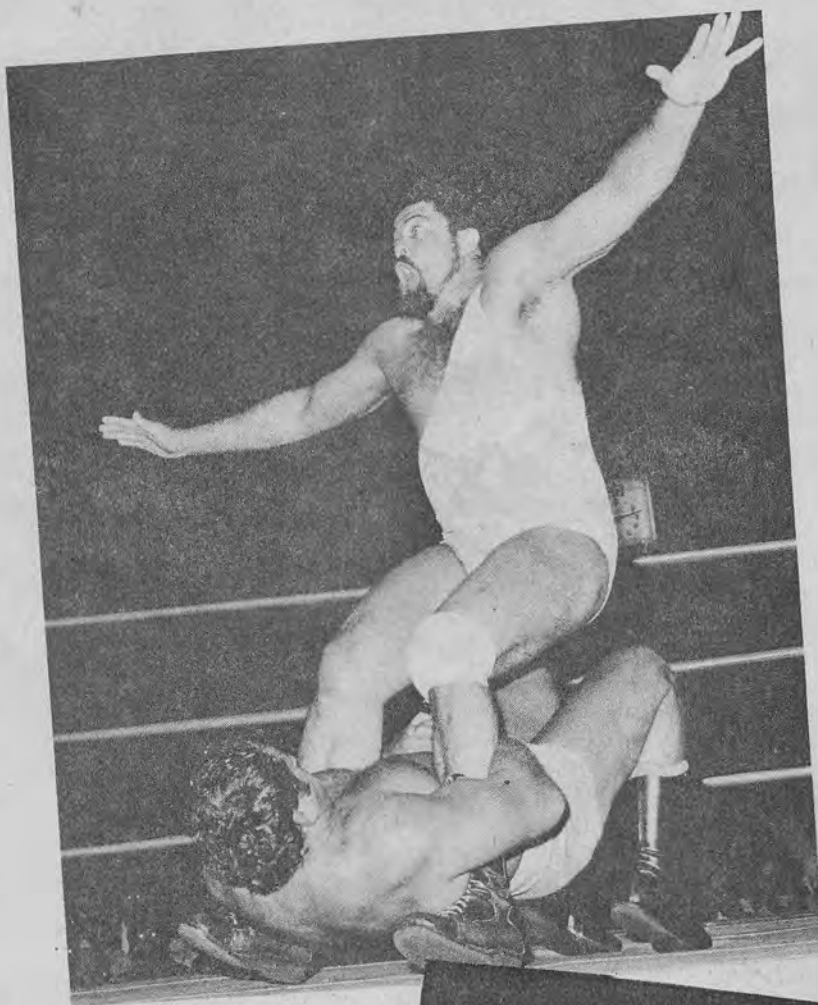
"I'm with Tony too," added Carlos Monta. "Luke Graham is just a lot of hot air, that's all."

With Luke wrestling in Georgia and Tony in Canada, it doesn't look like the match between them will take place for a long time as both are tied up with commitments.

"This world is not big enough for him to hide out in," Graham warns. "He's callin' me a liar, a fraud. Okay Rocco. As soon as my contract agreements are up I'm comin' after you. I'll run you off the face of the earth. And if I can't catch you, The Beastman will. You've put the nails in your own coffin Rocco. You're finished."

"Let Graham talk all he wants to," Tony said. "He's all talk, no action. I wouldn't put one red cent on anything he says." Maybe Tony is underestimating Luke. But *he* doesn't think so.

If he is, you'll find out Tony, and maybe soon. □



*Right: The California Beast squeezes unmercifully on the head of Tony Rocco. While crushing, Beast twists Tony around, until the Rocco head can barely remain attached to Tony's aching, sore shoulders.*



*Left: Tony easily flips the California Beast over his shoulder and sends him crashing to the mat. Little did Tony suspect, at this point early in the match, that this would add to Tony's punishment. be a very long, hard night.*



# Sincerely Yours...

## APARTMENT HOUSE FAN

I loved your article "How Apartment House Wrestling Turned Bloody," written by Dave Tashman and photos by Theo Ehret.

The girls were beautiful and by the pictures it looked like they could wrestle. My favorite pictures were Judy getting Janet in the chin and Judy getting a bearhug on Janet.

Before I read who the winner was I tried to guess who it was and I picked right—Judy. She has a fantastic body. How did Janet last that long with her?

I love the picture of Judy on Janet's back punching her face. I also enjoyed the picture of Janet trying to lift Judy off the ground and where Judy is scratching Janet's eye. My favorite, though, is where Judy is on top and she has Janet on her belly with one arm around her neck and one punching. Janet is definitely befuddled here.

Please have more pictures of apartment house wrestling!

JOE WEISER  
Linden, N.Y.

## DOWN ON WAHOO

Poor Wahoo McDaniel! Like a little baby, he has temper tantrums. Well, why doesn't he stop crying and do something about it?

I've had it up to here with wres-



*Apartment house wrestling was the scene for Judy's revenge upon Janet. Reader Joe Weiser loved the girls and the story.*

tlers who have great ability and can't control themselves. They're supposed to be professional athletes, not kids having a street brawl. If he can't control himself, then he's in the wrong business!

C'mon, Wahoo, grow up. You could be a champion. I've been a fan of yours for years. You're too good a

wrestler and person to keep beating yourself.

GARY RHEIN  
Tuscaloosa, Ala.

## RULES ARE RULES

The ease with which some wrestlers can ignore the rules is getting ridiculous!

In your story of the Maynard and Dixon-Saito and Shibuya tag team match, the Japanese were able to wear headgear throughout most of the match. They did this to protect themselves against the Maynard and Dixon deadly head butts. The referee told them that they had to remove the headgear. They ignored him! Maynard and Dixon had to rip the masks off themselves!

What are referees for, anyway? Do the wrestlers have to referee along with wrestling? If they don't have the ability to back up their decisions, why do the referees take up space in the ring?

Isn't it about time we put a stop to this kind of nonsense? Let's give the referees some real power and get men with guts to back up their decisions!

RICHARD HUMBER  
Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

## WORTHLESS WIZARD

Isn't it about time somebody cut out the Grand Wizard's tongue and stopped his worthless blithering?

It isn't bad enough that he has the gall to present raging animals like Stan Stasiak. It isn't bad enough that he pretends this mindless brute is championship material. It isn't bad enough that Stasiak specializes in ending the careers of his opponents. Now, he has to insult that great champion, Pedro Morales.

Pedro is champion for all the reasons the Grand Wizard could never

*A bloody Wahoo McDaniel admits that his temper may be hurting his career. Reader Gary Rhein urges Wahoo to stop feeling sorry for himself and mature.*







*Marcel Dubois and partner Fidel Castillo are banned in Europe and Canada? Should they be allowed to wrestle in the U.S.?*

sense and humility into that vicious animal, though I doubt it. I've seen Vachon wrestle many times and I'm still sick from the last match I attended. He is the rottenest, dirtiest wrestler I've ever seen. Once, I saw the sickening sight of his bleeding opponent carried out on a stretcher. And the louse just laughed!

Carpentier did us all a service by battering that animal around the ring. Though it won't stop his mad rampaging around the ring, wrestling fans can at least remember the time Mad Dog Vachon got his.

WARREN SKILLINGS  
Montreal, Canada

### KEEP THEM OUT!

What are we waiting for? Do we have to have the riots that occurred in Europe and Canada before we ban Michel DuBois and Fidel Castillo from this country?

The last thing we need is a tag team that is brutally cruel and viciously rotten. DuBois and Castillo are proud that they injure and maim their opponents. When fans are driven into the streets to protest their actions, things have gone too far.

Let's take the tip from other countries and get DuBois and Castillo out of the U.S.A.

GEORGE GANGLEFINGER  
Middletown, N.Y.

*(Continued on page 58)*

understand — compassion, integrity, courage, and skill. These are things the Grand Wizard could never be able to understand.

Because the Grand Wizard can't get any of his animals to defeat a champion he has to make excuses. He keeps shouting that Morales bribes the referees. Isn't that drivel too disgusting to even take seriously?

Pedro is a champion. The Grand Wizard is worthless.

BLANCHE POLLAK  
Bronx, N.Y.

### THE WIZARD IS RIGHT

The Grand Wizard is the only man in wrestling to say out loud what everybody knows — Pedro Morales is protected, aided, and favored by the referees. I've seen matches where I thought the referee was part of a handicap match with Morales, the two so cruelly ganged up on Pedro's opponent.

Stan Stasiak has the courage and cruelty to be a great champion. When he gets in a ring, he needs nobody to help him and he doesn't expect it. When you enter the ring with

Stasiak, you take your chances against a man. And only one man, not a two man combination.

Isn't there a referee who isn't under Morales' thumb?

PHIL LIVERNOIS  
Short Hills, Mo.

### HURRAY FOR CARPENTIER

The best pictures I've ever seen in your magazine were those of Mad Dog Vachon bleeding from the punches of Edouard Carpentier.

I hope Carpentier knocked some



*Grand Wizard and his man, Stan Stasiak, claim that Pedro is protected by the referees. Some fans agree, others don't.*

# BARON VON RASCHKE'S

## 10 MOST WANTED LIST!



Baron Von Raschke claims everything we've seen him do so far is just a "warmup" and that his "reign of terror" is first beginning now!



FRITZ VON ERICH



EDOUARD CARPENTIER



BOBO BRAZIL



Baron Fritz Von Raschke has never masked his hatred for American, British, French, Canadian and Italian wrestlers. It stems mostly from bitter World War II memories. And now, for the first time anywhere, Baron Von Raschke reveals the list of his "10 Most Wanted Men"—and his plans to do away with them!

**By BARON FRITZ VON RASCHKE**

**I** AM TELLING you this to give these men fair warning. I also want to publicize this campaign because I am beginning my reign of terror and I want the people to know why they may not be seeing some of the big names in wrestling for awhile. As you know, I have already wrestled some of these men. In some cases, I allowed them to defeat me. It was all part of my psychological campaign. I have learned enough about them that I now know I can destroy each and every one of them. For the past few years, I have been practicing, merely warming up for my reign of terror. Now the time has come. When I next speak to you I will

be the world champion. I figure there are 10 men, and I use the term men loosely, who stand in my way. Within the next year, each of these men will be eliminated!"

"Number one on my list is that human bowling ball who calls himself 'The Bruiser.' As you know, I have defeated that mental cripple on many occasions, even though my aim was not necessarily victory. I merely wrestled him to study his moves. Bruiser must go because he is considered one of the strongest wrestlers there is. By defeating him I shall prove the ultimate mastery of my strength.

"The second who'll go will be that overstuffed savage Bobo Bra-

zil. He is another man who I've defeated on numerous occasions. He is not a particularly bright or talented individual. But for some reason he is well-liked. By soundly defeating him once and for all, I shall prove that skill and not personality is the ultimate factor in wrestling. Bobo Brazil will be laughed out of the sport!

"My third victim will be that French coward Edouard Carpentier. By dismembering him, I shall gain partial revenge for what those French peasants did to my beloved country. Carpentier is also extremely quick and agile. I shall prove that both of these factors are of no use against someone as great as I.

"Next to fall will be that decrepit old man, Pat O'Connor. He should have retired from wrestling years ago while he still *looked* like a wrestler. It shall be a great pleasure to retire this O'Connor. I do not like Australians and I like Americans less. He is an Australian who became an American. You can imagine what I think of O'Connor.

*Continued*



MIGHTY IGOR



THE SHEIK



PAT O'CONNOR



BRUNO SAMMARTINO



BRUISER



VERNE GAGNE



DORY FUNK JR.

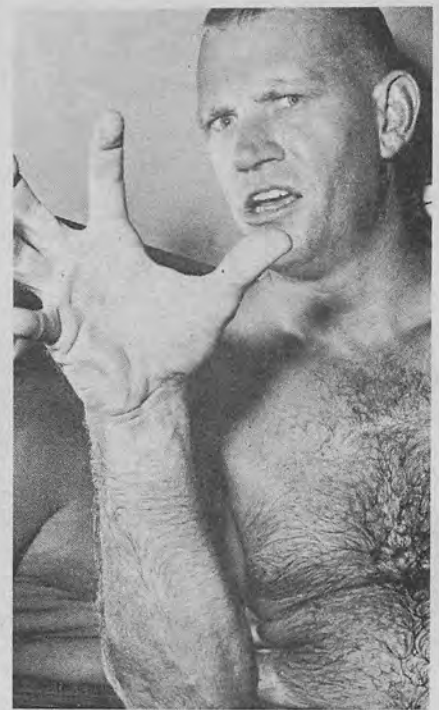


"This is Pat O'Connor," said the Baron. "He should have retired a long, long time ago."

## THE BARON DESCRIBES HIS INTENDED VICTIMS



"Dory Funk Jr. is a blot on the championship. I shall finish Funk the punk."



"I'll match my Brain Claw with Fritz Von Erich's claw and we'll see who comes out on top."



"Bruiser is a human bowling ball and a mental cripple. I'll defeat him with ease."



"There is no man on the face of this Earth I despise more than Bruno Spaghetti-bender!"



"Mighty Igor is an idiot—a foul-smelling idiot. I'll wipe him out in less than two minutes!"

"My fifth victim will prove the most rewarding of all because he is considered to be the most ruthless wrestler there is. I am the most ruthless wrestler there is. And when I send The Sheik back to his tent in the desert, people will know who the most sadistic, violent, tricky and vicious wrestler really is. You think The Sheik uses mysterious tricks? How mysterious will he be after I pluck out his eyes with my

fingers?

"After I finish off that puny, undersized desert rat, I shall advance to my next victim, that foul-smelling, bearded pixie, Mighty Igor. This is a man with absolutely no talent or ability. He has the mind of a child. Did you ever see that stupid expression he wears on his face? He's an idiot. After those first five opponents I'll need a bit of a breather. I'll probably finish

Igor off in less than two minutes.

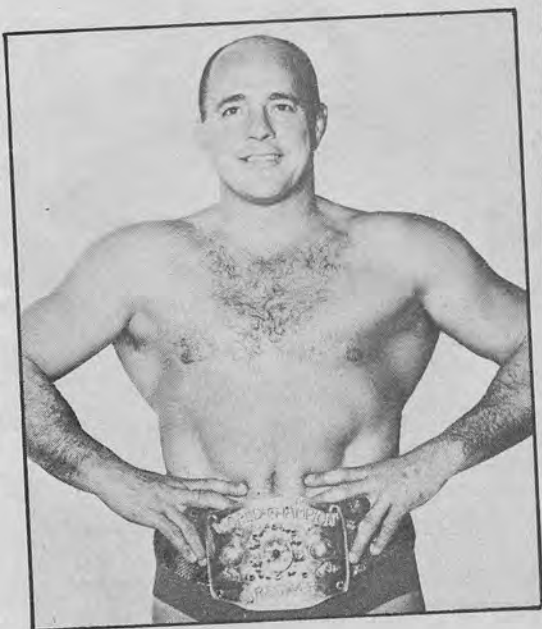
"Next on my list is Fritz Von Erich and his so-called 'Claw' hold. He's been fooling the people for years with that feeble excuse for a hold. I've been telling the world that my brain claw is the single deadliest hold there is. I want the opportunity to match my brain claw with his claw hold and we'll see who comes out on top!

"My eighth unfortunate victim





"Bobo Brazil is an overstuffed savage who'll be laughed out of wrestling when I get him!"



—and one whose demise I shall laughingly supervise—will be that greasy spaghetti-bender Bruno Sammartino. There is no person on the face of the earth I detest more than this man. I shall break down his strength and paralyze him for life with my brain claw. He is a coward who remained champion for eight years by ducking me. He's typical of an overfed American slob with too much money. They've

"How mysterious will The Sheik be after I pluck out his eyes and return him to the desert?"



"Verne Gagne will never wrestle again. My destruction of Gagne will be complete and final."

made an idol out of this bum. I shall wreck that image before their very eyes.

"Number nine will give me great pleasure. I shall personally end the false aura of greatness that Funk the punk has built around himself. How this child ever got to be champion I'll never know. I've beaten him so many times already I've lost count. But he's always retained his title on a technicality. I shall



"I shall gain revenge on Edouard Carpentier for what those French peasants did to my country!"

defeat him so conclusively there can be no way he can keep his belt short of outright charity. He's a blot on the championship. When I'm through with him all he'll be good for is shoveling manure on his father's broken down ranch.

"And now for the last man, the man considered the most scientific and talented of all the wrestlers, Verne Gagne. This man has been avoiding me for years. My destruction of Gagne will be complete and final. He'll never wrestle again. I shall prove, once and for all, that no amount of science can triumph over the non-stop aggressiveness, strength, speed, brains and overall talent I possess.

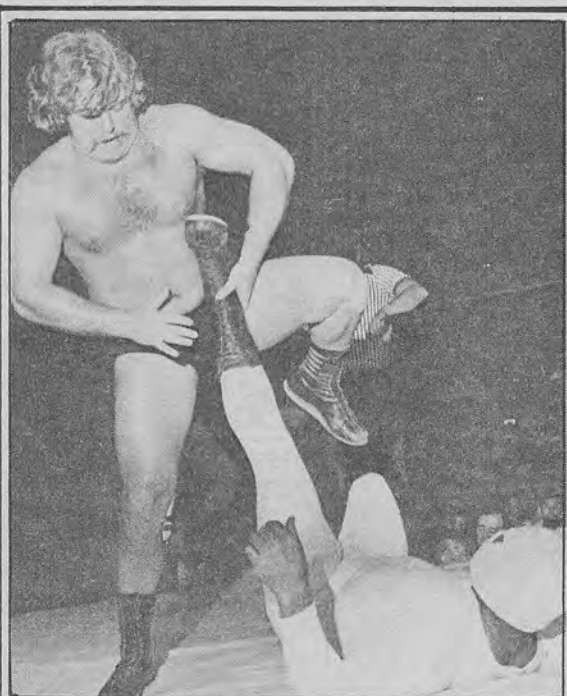
"For years I've been telling the world that I'm the greatest wrestler there is. But all of the big names have been avoiding me. This is the year their myths shall be ended. I plan to win every major championship and return to Germany with them all. I am the master and they are but slaves. For years I have watched these Americans and Frenchmen and Canadians and Italians and Englishmen get fat and lazy from the fruits of their labor. They have forgotten what it means to go hungry, to have your land stolen from you. I have never forgotten what their countrymen did to my people. And I shall not rest until I have gained revenge with their blood!"

# EYE ON THE MAT WORLD

Come along with our staff of photographers as they record all the action and behind-the-scenes drama of professional wrestling around the world. No-where else will you find such in-depth picture coverage as in **THE WRESTLER** and **INSIDE WRESTLING**, the two largest selling wrestling magazines in the world.



Andre The Giant cut his tour of the U.S. short so he could go to Canada to congratulate Ed Carpentier (above) after Ed won the Grand Prix title.



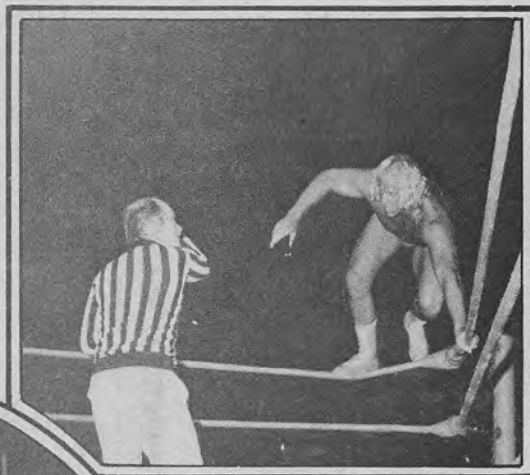
No, it's not a concert, it's Dick Taylor (above) vowing revenge on Jacques Rougeau for putting him out of action and into the hospital for a month. A chip off the old block, Mike Graham (left) uses one of his father's favorite holds, the step-over toe hold, on one of the new Masked Medics. "I'm so proud of Mike," Eddie says. "He's a true Graham in every sense of the word." Eddie Creatchman and Spidermen (below) "plug" a copy of **INSIDE WRESTLING** in which their story appeared. "That magazine has got a lot of class putting us on the cover," Creatchman explained. "I'm glad they don't use stiffies like Joe Leduc very often. Who'd buy a magazine with his picture on the cover? I wouldn't."







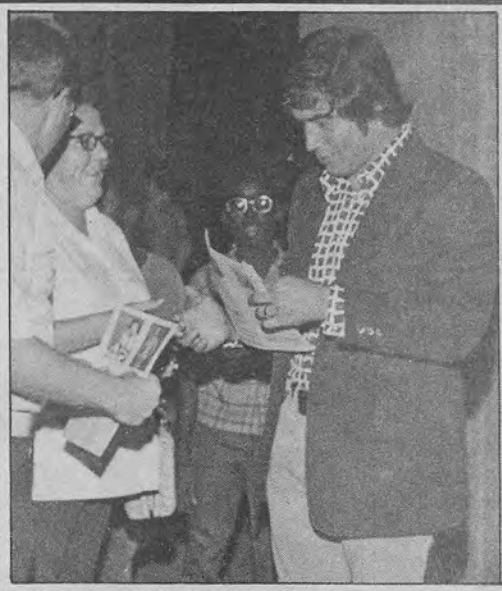
Sailor Art Thomas tells announcer Sam Menacker (left) that he wants to rid the world of Bobby Heenan and his gang. "I agree," Sam added. "They're menaces." What a place to have an argument with a referee (right). Rene Goulet's not listening to him and is about to be disqualified if he jumps!



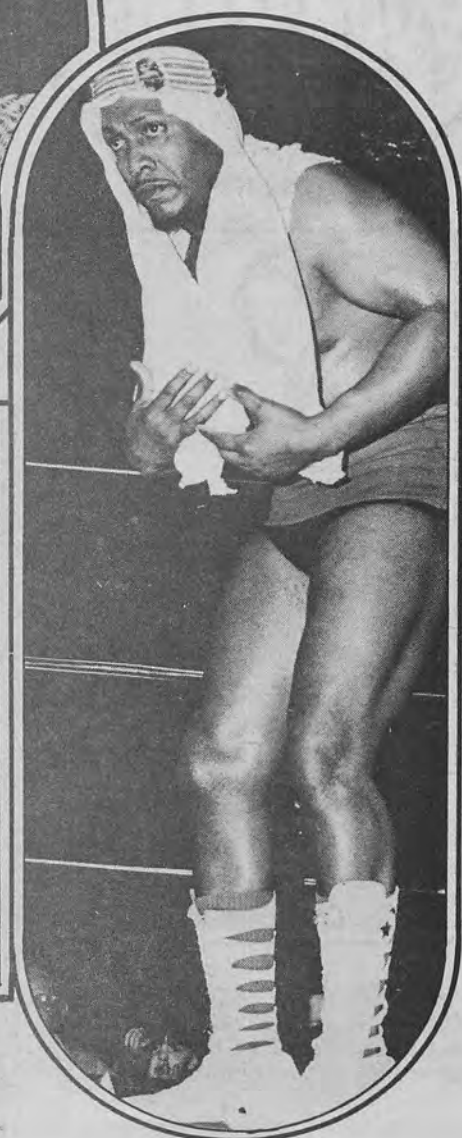
Johnny Powers (left) relaxes while waiting at an airport before embarking on a tour of Japan. Armand Hussein (below) is cleaning up competition in the Pacific northwest areas.

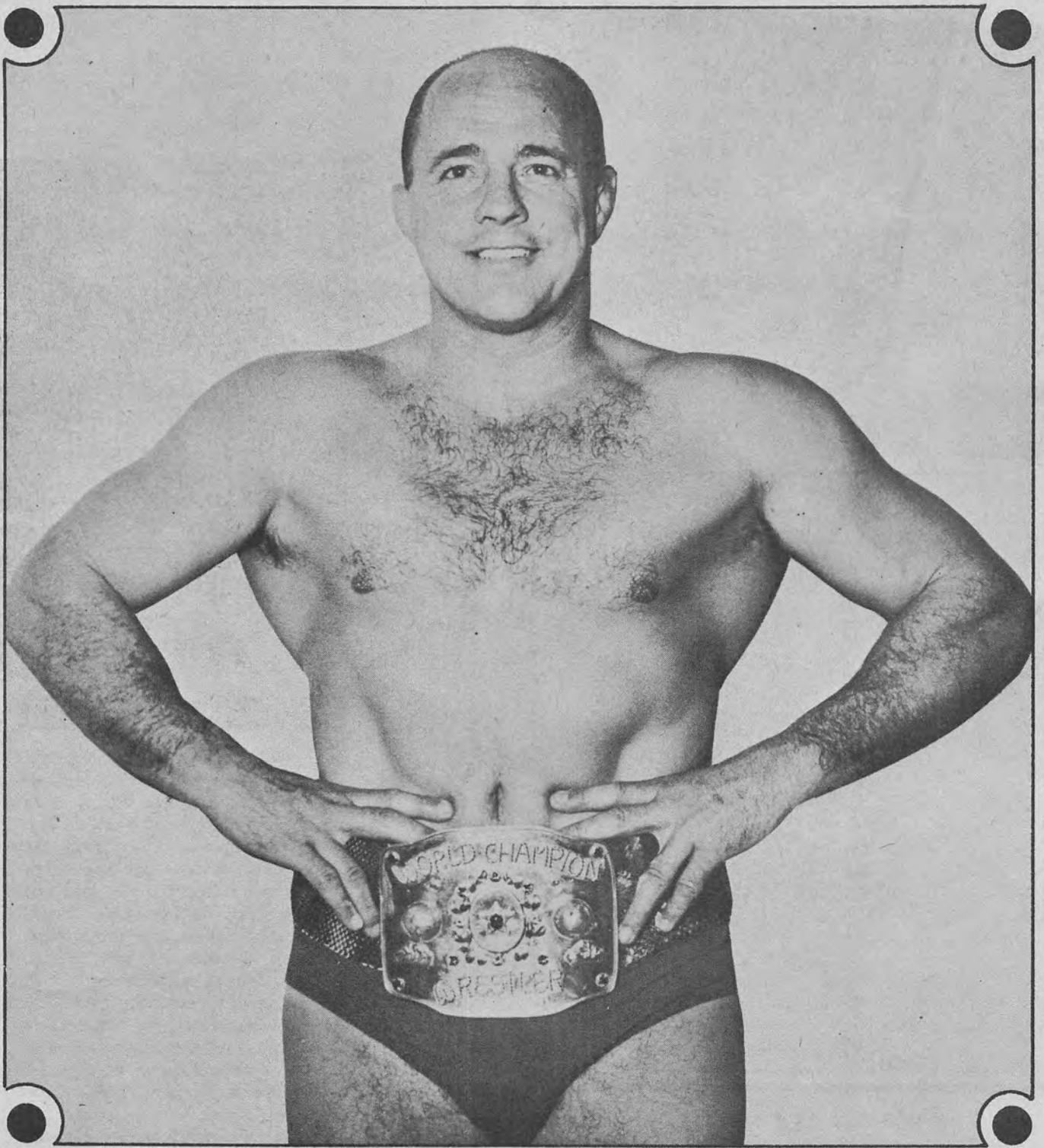


Once a scientific wrestler, The Mighty Zulu (above) has turned into a vicious, brutal madman.



Jack Brisco obliges fans in Alabama by signing autographs. "Jack is so friendly," one fan noted. "He's my favorite."



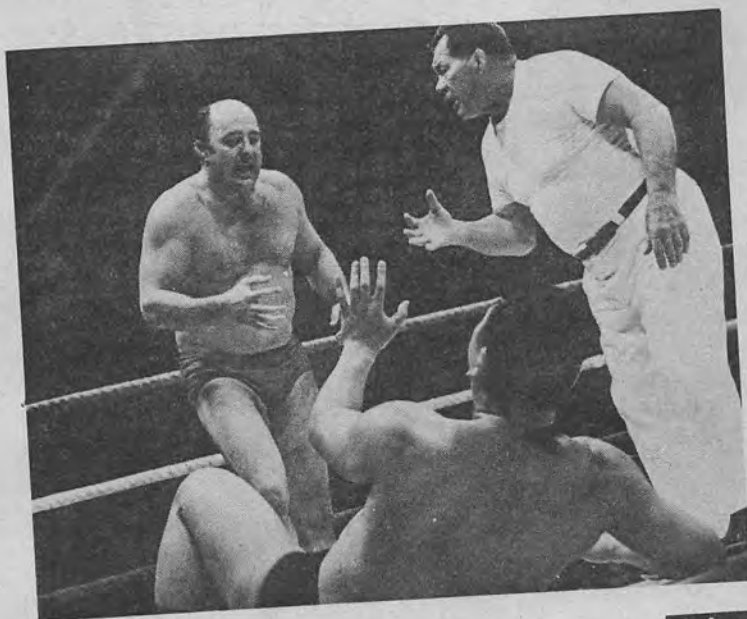


# **VERNE GAGNE**

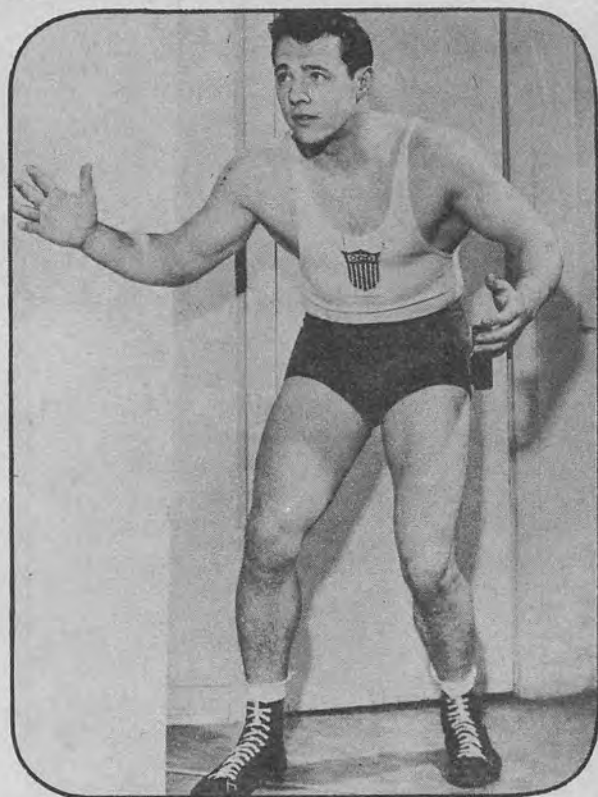
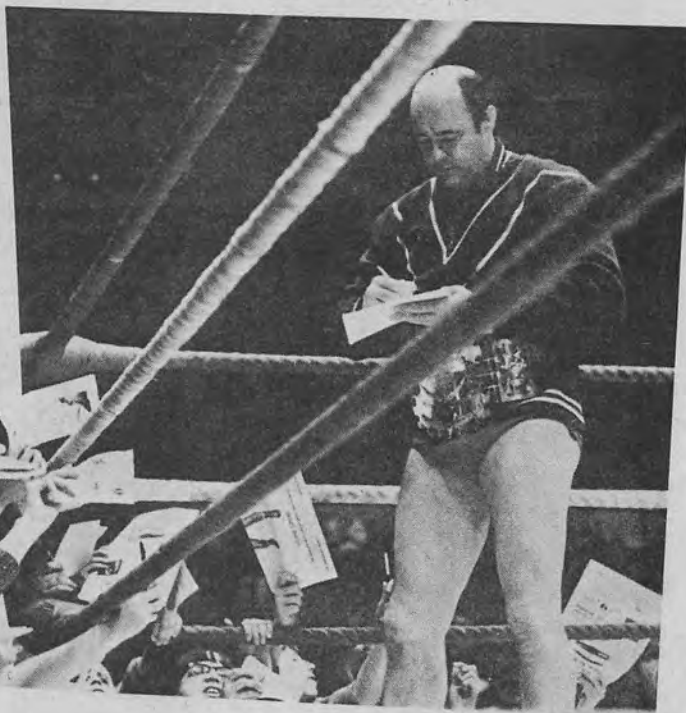
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## **AN AMERICAN**





The Great Kusatsu begs Verne not to belt him after he got Gagne mad. The A.W.A. champion may have lost some hair, but he certainly has not lost any of his truly amazing ability.



Wearing his American Wrestling Association Championship belt, Verne (above) obliges fans with autographs. Left: Verne has the look of a champion in this portrait taken while he was on the U.S. Olympic team.

By Bob Ruiz

**C**HAMPIONS COME AND champions go. But Verne Gagne is always there, right on top. One of the three recognized world heavyweight champions (Dory Funk Jr. and Pedro Morales are the other two), Verne is becoming as much of an American institution to wrestling as John Wayne is to the movies. For two decades he has thrilled wrestling fans with his dynamic style and pleasing personality. And although he has won every conceivable honor his chosen profession has to offer—Verne still shows no signs of slowing down. He is a legend within his own lifetime.

As an amateur, he won virtually every wrestling title of any importance. At the University of Minnesota he won the Big 10 title four consecutive years. During a stint in the Marines, Verne won honors in football as well as in wrestling and upon his discharge from the service

**He's not as young as Dory Funk Jr. and he's not as fast as Pedro Morales. Those men are merely champions. Verne Gagne is something else again!**

# INSTITUTION

he was awarded a pro football contract but turned it down. He wanted to finish college first. When he returned to the university he won the N.C.A.A. title twice and represented the United States in the 1948 Olympic Games.

But while Gagne was making a name for himself in wrestling, he was building an equally impressive record in football. He played pro ball with the Green Bay Packers, but he soon tired of it and returned to his first love—wrestling.

Verne had his first professional bout in Minneapolis and it wasn't too much later that he won the junior heavyweight title in Tulsa, Oklahoma. One year after that Verne was the U.S. Heavyweight Champion. And after working his way up the ladder, seven years later he became the World Heavyweight Champion!

How did Gagne's claim to the title eventually become contested? Here is the story of why today there are so many champions.

In the '50's, Lou Thesz was regarded as the world heavyweight champion by every recognized wrestling organization. In Chicago in 1957, Edouard Carpentier defeated Thesz. One year later, Gagne dethroned Carpentier for the belt. However, while all this was going on, Thesz had lodged a protest with the N.W.A. claiming Carpentier did not really defeat him. The N.W.A. upheld Thesz's claim on a technicality, but by that time Gagne was already reigning as the world champion. A great schism developed as some organizations respected Gagne's claim to the title while others considered Thesz's claim to be the valid one. As a result, the American Wrestling Association (A.W.A.) was born and it upheld Gagne's title. The championship was thus split between two men.

Thesz was eventually defeated by Pat O'Connor who was beaten by Buddy Rogers. When Rogers held the title, he was defeated by Bruno Sammartino, but again a protest was launched and again it was upheld on a technicality. Just as had happened with Gagne, there was a split between organizations and the World



Gagne's right hand is frozen in a grotesque shape (left) as he falls victim to Kusatsu's nerve-paralyzing necklock. But Verne gets out of trouble and comes up with a hammerlock (below).



Verne comes rocketing off the ropes and zeroes in on Don Leo Jonathan in a memorable match in 1964. Verne has long held that Jonathan gave him as much trouble as any opponent ever.

Wide Wrestling Federation recognized Sammartino while the N.W.A. still recognized Rogers. Sammartino held onto his version of the championship for eight years, finally losing it to Ivan Koloff, who lost it, in turn, to Pedro Morales. Rogers' part of the title eventually wound up in the hands of Dory Funk Jr., who won it from Gene Kiniski. During that time, Gagne retained his version of the title. So because of the protests and technicalities involved, there evolved three different legitimate claims to the heavyweight title—the A.W.A. claim, the W.W.-W.F. claim and the N.W.A. claim. And Gagne, by far, has retained his version of the crown longer than any of the other champions.

How good is Verne Gagne? One of the most respected men in wrestling, Nebraska promoter Joe Dusek, himself one of the outstanding grapplers of all time, had this to say about Gagne:

"When they write the book on the great wrestlers of all time, Verne Gagne's name will be somewhere near the very top of the list. And I've seen or wrestled all the great ones going back to 1931!"

What has made Gagne's name so widely respected? What has allowed him to retain his A.W.A. title for so long? It can be answered in one word—dedication. Gagne has devoted his entire life to the sport. And even though he'd be considered one

(Continued on page 62)



# BREAKING THE SIZE BARRIER

**You say you want to be a professional wrestler but you're too small. Well there's a chance for you yet! In a bold new experiment in Texas they're proving that the smaller men can be just as exciting as their heavyweight counterparts!**

**I**F THERE'S ONE objection fans—especially young fans—seem to have against professional wrestling it's that in most cases the sport is restricted to big men—both in height and weight.

A youngster who has a small frame can wrestle in high school and college because of the weight classifications enabling him to meet opponents of his own size. But once he gets out of college, what does a 150-pound youngster do if he wants to wrestle professionally?

Previously, the answer has usually been there's nothing he can do. But not any more. Now he can go to Texas and wrestle professionally even if he's only a 147-pounder! Because one of the most successful new crazes in Texas is "welterweight wrestling"—matches in which opponents can show off their skills against men of equal size and weight.

Dory Funk Sr. explained the idea behind the innovation. "We're in an area which contains many Mexican-American wrestling fans. The youngsters love the sport and many of them work out in gyms. Some of them are really good. But they're small. And because of that they never had any hope of wrestling professionally. It



was a dead end. What they're trying to do is give them a chance to show what they can do and to show that matches among smaller wrestlers of equal size can be as exciting as matches between the bigger fellows. So



*Mil Mascaras? Nope. It's welterweight wrestler Juan Timon, who hopes fans will soon appreciate grapplers who aren't "only big."*



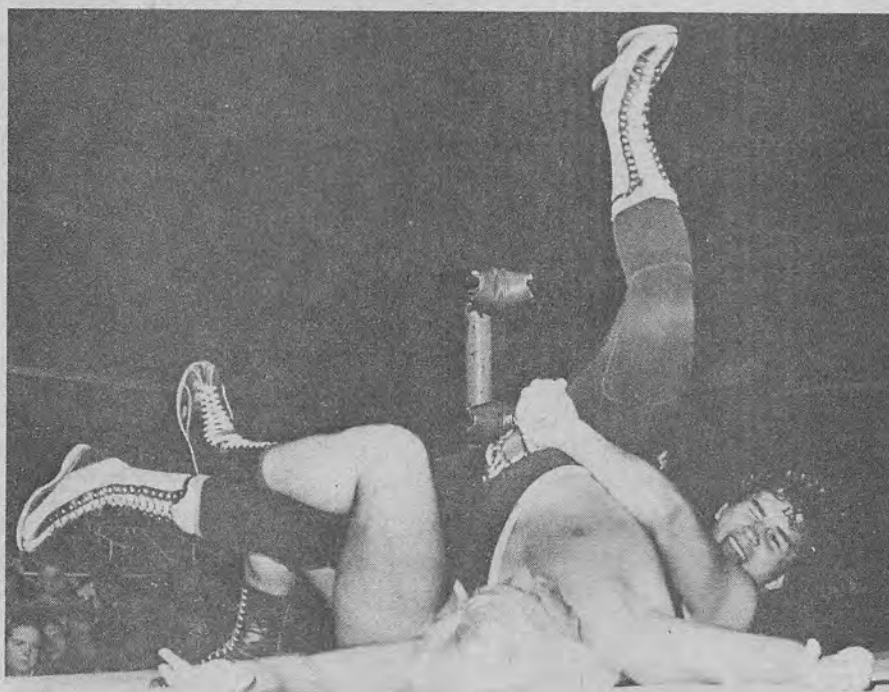
*Chavo Guerrero (above) flips Juan Timon way up in the air. Left: Timon stomps Chavo as they brawl outside the ring. Heavyweights don't have a patent on brutality.*

far the fans seem to be enjoying it."

Just as professional boxing's smaller classes (bantamweight, featherweight, lightweight and welterweight) are enjoying a surge of popularity

*(Continued on page 64)*

# HOW BOBBY SHANE HELPED JERRY BRISCO SOLVE HIS BIGGEST PROBLEM



Photos By Gene Gordon

good friend and sometime tag team partner, believes. "With his brother Jack as champion, Jerry feels very frustrated. His career can go nowhere while Jack holds the title. He began to take out his frustration in the ring.

"But Jerry's too good a wrestler and person to do that for long. He learned quickly that he doesn't enjoy seeing people in pain, especially when he's the cause. He's given up being dirty because he found he didn't like himself."

Jerry doesn't admit that brother Jack holding the championship is at the root of his problems, he says it's just "personal problems." But a professional doesn't let his hang-ups interfere with his sport. He had to learn to control himself.

"It wasn't easy. A wrestling ring is a great place to work out your anger at the world. You can explode and only your opponent will try to stop you.

"But an athlete can't work that way. I'm proud of my wrestling skills. I'm not an animal but a sportsman. I couldn't keep forgetting that.

"So, I decided I had to wrestle someone who I hated. Someone who deserved to have his head cracked open. And I would have to wrestle

*Jerry's new hold, the "wishbone press" upsets Bobby Shane. Jerry wanted to prove to himself that he is capable of wrestling clean even against a guy like Shane. Recently Jerry had been called an "uncontrollable madman" and Jerry said his dirty tactics were due to "personal problems," now solved.*

**T**HE CLOUD OVER Jerry Brisco seems to be lifting.

For the past several months, Jerry had become surly, angry, and brutal in the ring. Fans and other wrestlers couldn't believe the almost illegal maneuvers Jerry was using. Whatever was bothering Jerry Brisco was being taken out on his hapless opponents.

Thunderbolt Patterson, Jerry's

**Things were not going well for Jerry Brisco. He didn't like himself and some of his fans stopped liking him. Jerry worked his problem out — with an assist from a most unlikely source!**



*Jerry tries to prevent Shane from locking him in a "surfboard" (below) but it's no use (right). He's caught.*



the entire match scientifically. If I could do that, then I could be proud of myself once more. There's only one man who fit the bill — Bobby Shane!"

When Shane heard the challenge he responded immediately. He couldn't wait to tangle with Brisco.

"When I wrestle that lug, Jerry Brisco," Shane happily declared, "I'll tear him apart and give autographed parts to the fans! The human sludge that is a Brisco will receive the demolition he so rightly deserves. Jerry has just as little talent as his brother, so this match will prove that I should be champion. It is always a pleasure to batter a Brisco."

"Of course, even the fans recognize that Brisco is one of the dirtiest wrestlers in the world. This, naturally, doesn't bother me at all. I'm good enough to counter the most foul, most devious, and most dangerous moves that a reprehensible shnook like Jerry Brisco can devise. I attribute my success to clean living and clean thinking, both of which I do occasionally."

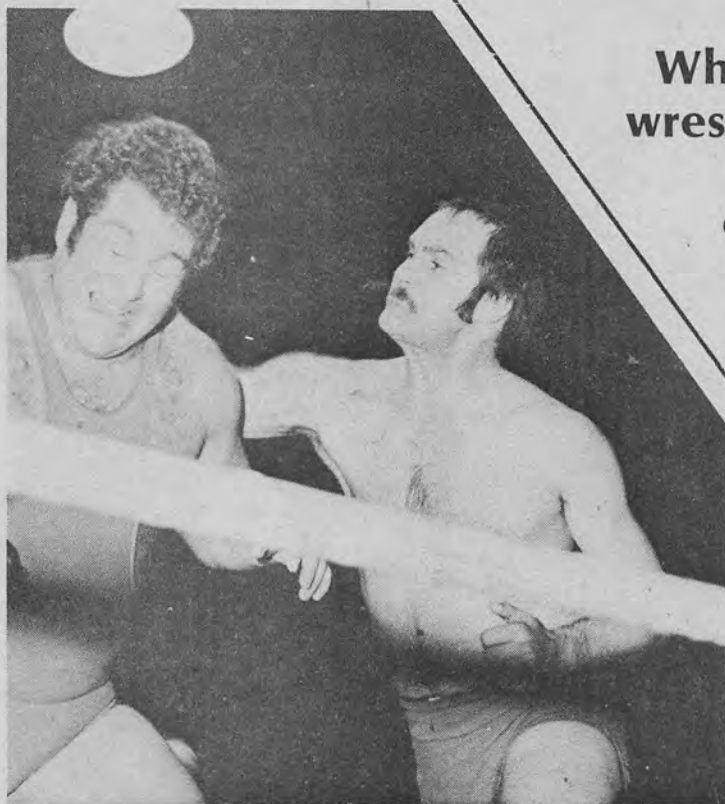
Meanwhile, Jerry's friends tried to convince Jerry not to use this match to see whether he was his old self. They argued that Bobby Shane could make a saint lose his temper. Also, they were afraid that Jerry might

*(Continued on page 53)*

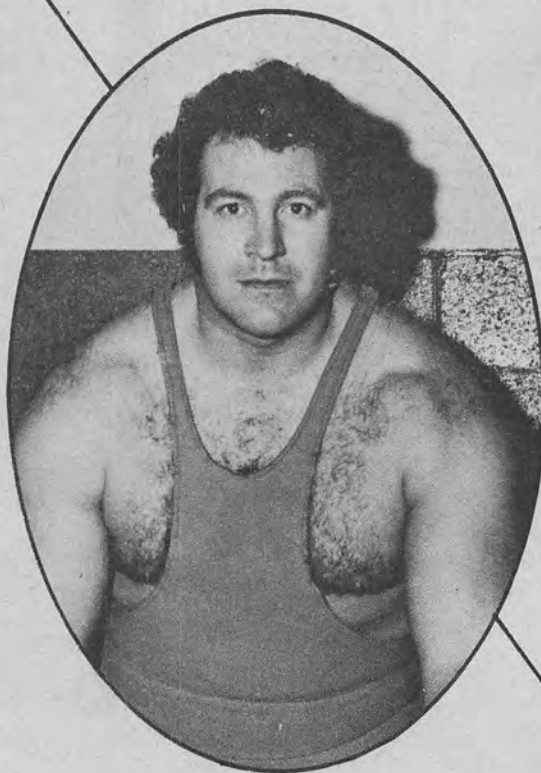


# WHO ARE WRESTLING'S STRONGEST MEN?

*Ken patera, on the U.S.  
1972 Olympic weightlifting  
team, is now considered to  
be wrestling's strongman.*



Who are the strongest men in wrestling? To find out we asked our nationwide staff of correspondents to come up with the answer. They did. And what they found may surprise you



**U**NDoubtedly the strongest wrestler in the United States and quite possibly the strongest man in the United States, KEN PATERA more than proved his ability at the 1972 Olympics although he didn't place high enough to win a medal in weightlifting. Patera's lifts went about 386 pounds in the snatch and 505 in the clean and jerk. Although the press has been eliminated from Olympic weightlifting competition, Ken has pressed 505 pounds! Patera has a weightlifter's body but it surprisingly quick for someone so strong. As most strong men, his best holds are the bear-hug and leg scissors, both delivered with devastating power. Pound for pound, Ken is wrestling's strongest man!



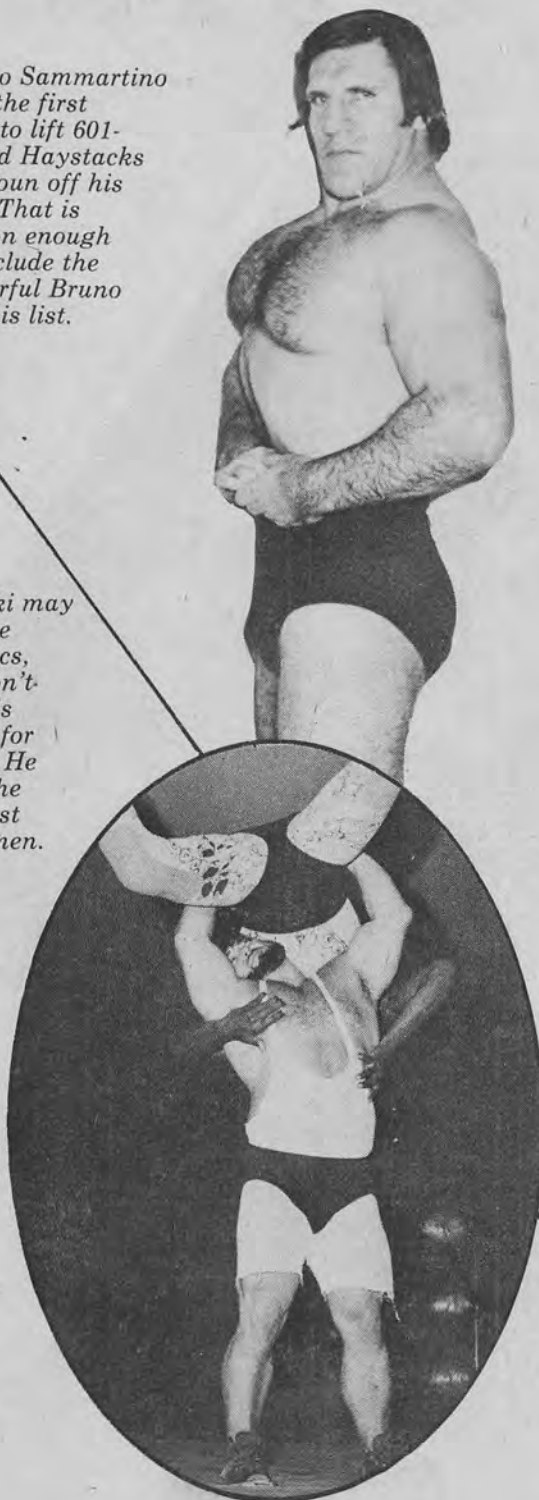
**O**NCE the strongest man in wrestling, BRUNO SAMMARTINO is now second only to Patera. Like Ken, Bruno built his body up by using weights, a system he continues to train with, much to his opponents' dismay. Bruno has recorded some amazing statistics in weightlifting. He has pressed in excess of 400 pounds, bench pressed 545, recorded 700 pounds in the squat and has deadlifted more than 700 pounds. Recently, Bruno has trimmed down (he had been putting on weight) and once again he owns a beautiful physique. However, the weight he's lost has not at all affected his incredible strength. His trademarks, the bearhug and the backbreaker, are considered among the best in wrestling history.

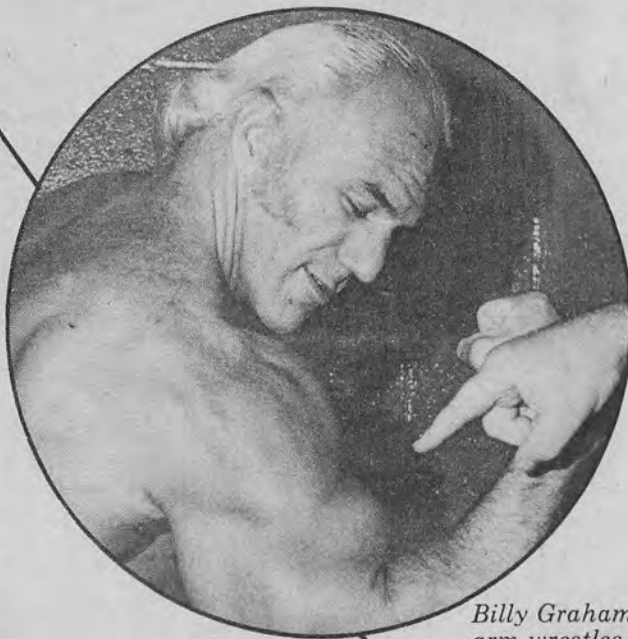
*Bruno Sammartino was the first man to lift 601-pound Haystacks Calhoun off his feet. That is reason enough to include the powerful Bruno on this list.*

*Ivan Putski may be childlike in his antics, but just don't mistake his innocence for weakness. He is one of the sport's most powerful men.*



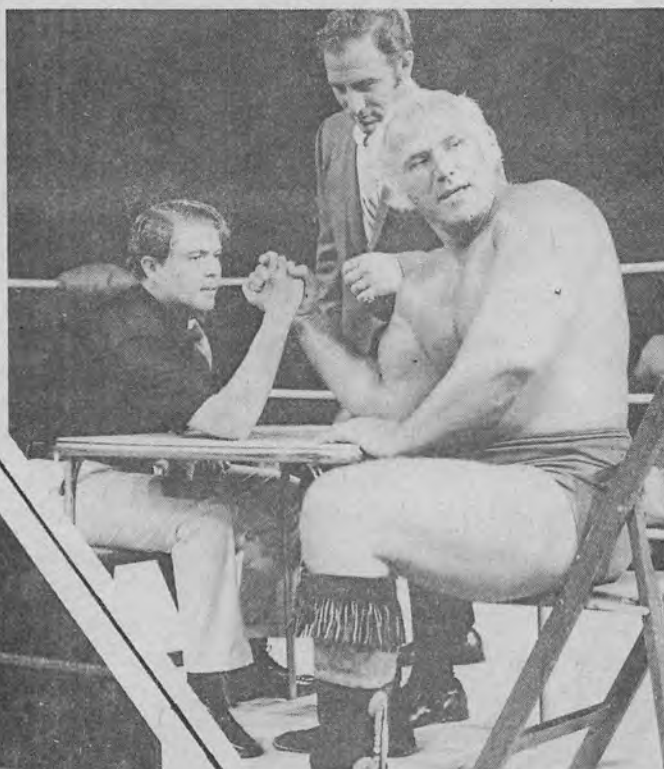
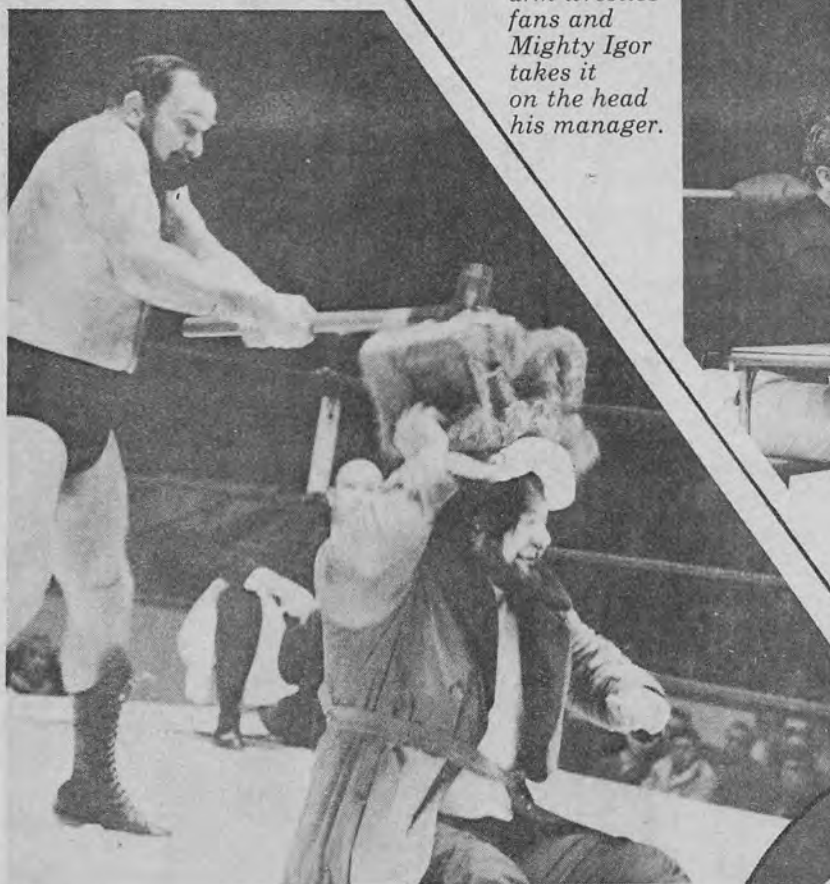
**T**HE subject of a major, two-part article in York Barbell Company's muscular development magazine, IVAN PUTSKI is one of the top weightlifters and strongmen in wrestling, even though he has had little top-flight coaching in this area. The article, written by two of America's most knowledgeable lifters, Paul Anderson and Dr. Terry Todd, claimed that Putski's workout would be too much for even some of the best lifters around today! He has been known to press 425 pounds, bench press 400 and lift 650 pounds in the squat. Although not a powerful looking man with bulging muscles like a Patera or Sammartino, Ivan is nonetheless one of the strongest men in wrestling and could give any of the top two a run for their money in any strength contest.





ONE of the first Americans to bench press over 600 pounds, "SUPERSTAR" BILLY GRAHAM is the proud possessor of the most muscular arms in professional wrestling. This was not always the case. At one time Graham's arms were just better than average. But an intensive program of arm training with weights has made them the best in the sport. Billy's strength is evenly distributed throughout his body like a well-constructed machine. Graham has pressed almost 400 pounds and has deadlifted close to 650 pounds. Opponents have compared his headlock and leglock to being trapped in a powerful vise whose grasp never varies or weakens. He is amazing for his ability to sustain the power of his holds.

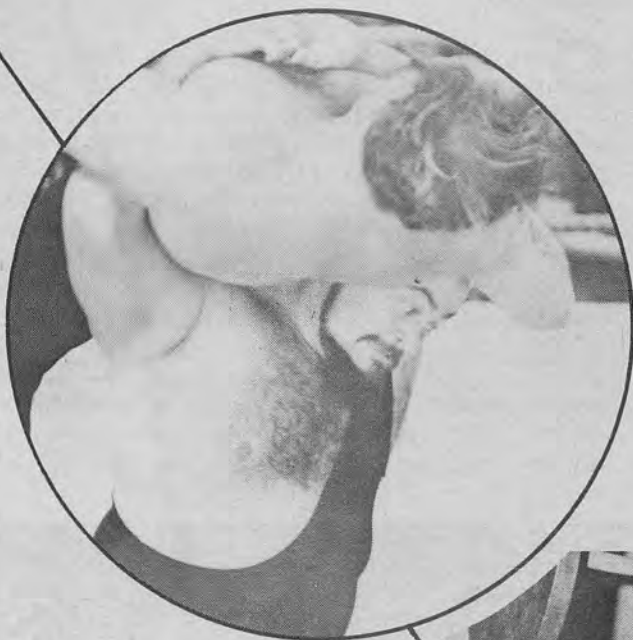
*Billy Graham arm wrestles fans and Mighty Igor takes it on the head his manager.*



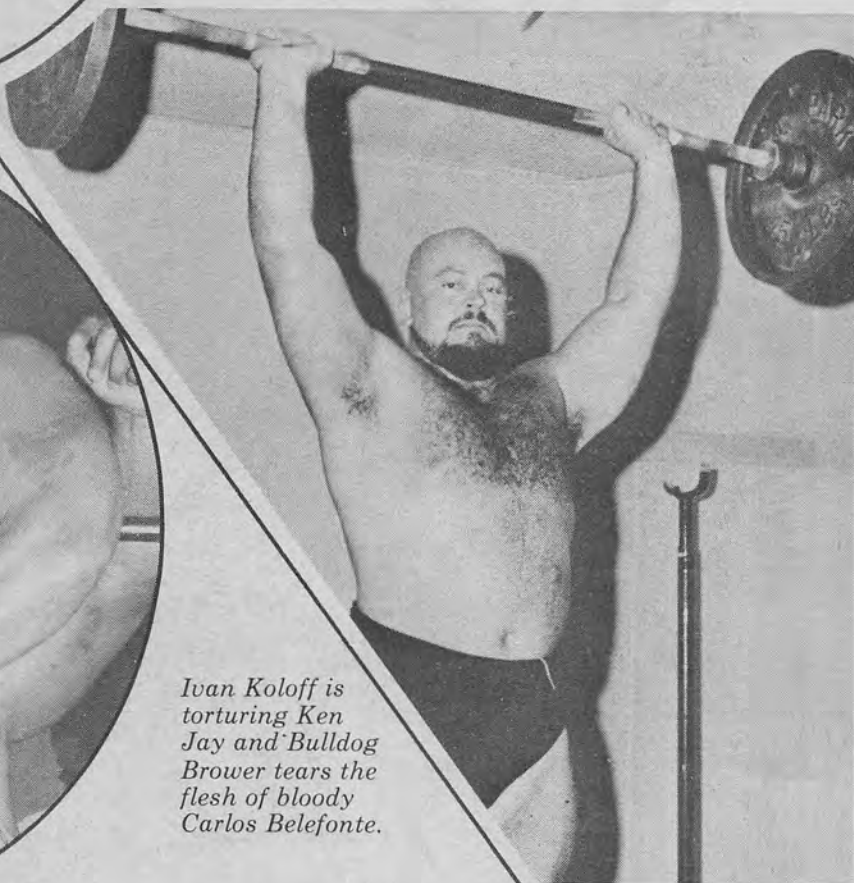
**P**UTSKI'S countryman and sometime tag team partner, MIGHTY IGOR, is just about as strong as Putski. These two, who look like identical twins (until they teamed many fans refused to believe they were two different people), often combine to form what must be the strongest team in wrestling history. Igor's feats of strength are legendary, buy his most famous—and dangerous—is to brace his back against a wall with his feet on the bumper of a car. The car slowly accelerates until the pedal is floored and the wheels are spinning, screeching and smoking. He can press 350 pounds, bench press 500 pounds and deadlift 600 pounds.







**A** frequent tag team partner of Graham's is the Russian strong man, IVAN KOLOFF. This powerfully built former Eastern European champion was a member of the Russian Olympic team for about 45 minutes until he refused to obey his first order. He gave up weights for a few years after that, but has since returned to his rigorous lifting program. His most remarkable feat was bench pressing 600 pounds on a bet! His bear hug is crippling and its victims feel its effects for weeks afterward. A testament to his great strength is that he dethroned Bruno Sammartino from his W.W.W.F. championship. Koloff can deadlift 625 pounds and has recorded 685 pounds in the squat. He trains himself which many feel is holding him back from becoming the strongest man in wrestling.



*Ivan Koloff is torturing Ken Jay and Bulldog Brower tears the flesh of bloody Carlos Belefonte.*



**T**HE years have been good to BULLDOG BROWER, who seems to get stronger and stronger. Within the last three years, he has improved his bench pressing weight by 60 pounds, his pressing weight by 85 pounds, his snatch lifting by 70 pounds, and his deadweight pressing by over 100 pounds. Always a powerful man, he begun to seriously lift weights only in the past 10 years. It is doubtful that any wrestler in the world has added to his strength at Bulldog's rate. Opponents are astonished how much stronger he is each time he wrestles. He isn't getting older, he's getting better. He can clean and jerk 450 pounds and deadlift 630 pounds. (Continued on page 63)



*"Being a professional wrestling referee is one of the hardest jobs in the world," says Dick Kroll, who is considered one of the best. "However," Dick adds, "I can't think of any other job I'd rather have."*



# A REFEREE ANSWERS YOUR QUESTIONS

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**R**EFEREEES ARE ABUSED, maligned, cursed, often injured and seldom ever loved. The pay often doesn't compensate for the treatment they receive. Yet without referees there'd be no wrestling.

Dick Kroll is one of the most respected names in international refereeing. He is one of the few men who have officiated throughout the United States and in Canada. He is young, has a nice personality, is intelligent and seems to be totally sane. Why would a man like that become a referee?

"I can't exactly put my finger on it," Dick laughed during an interview in New York's Madison Square Garden. "It's something that just

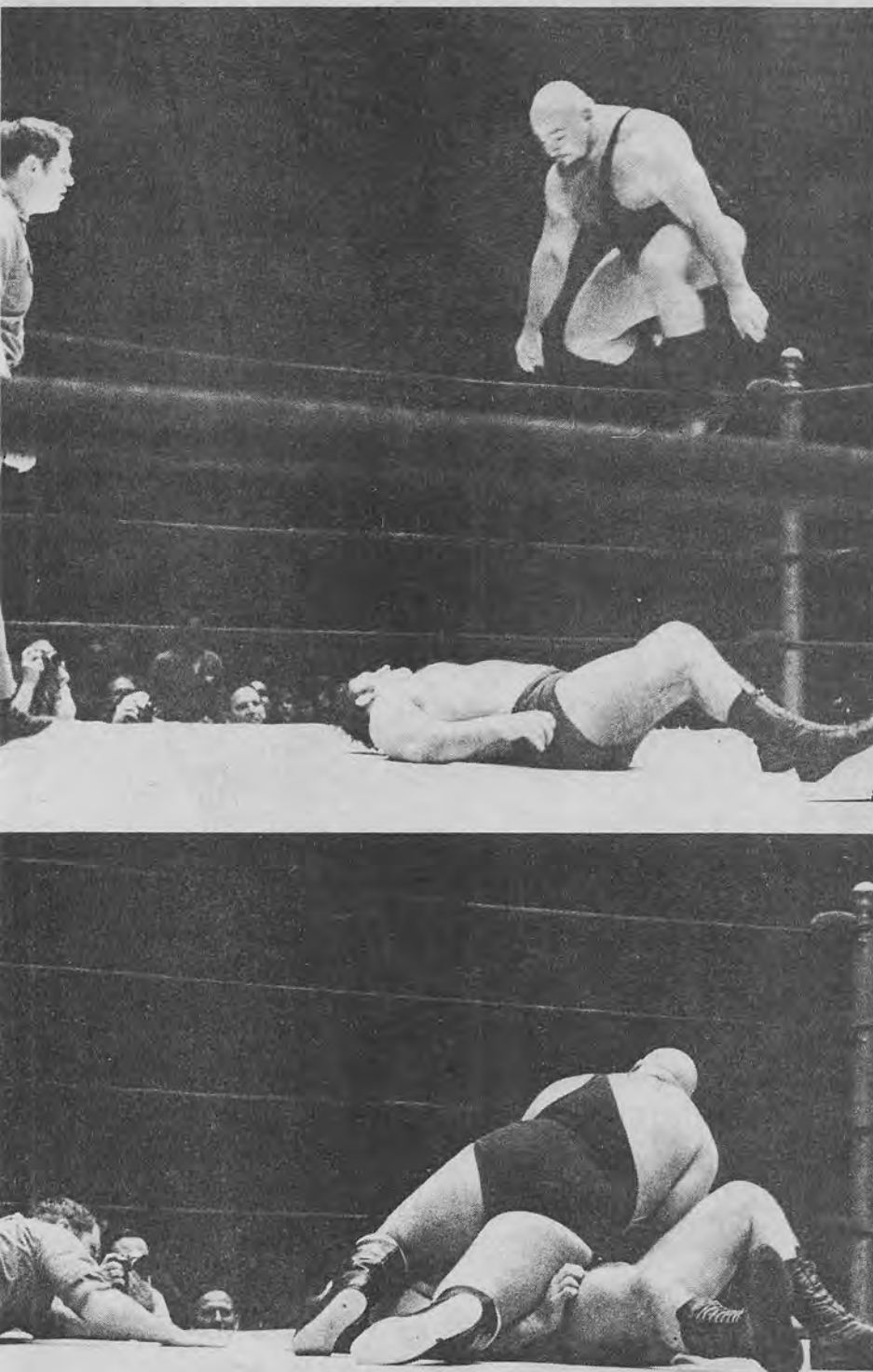
**We're always getting letters from fans complaining about referees—what they did do or what they didn't do. Dick Kroll is a rare breed of referee. He officiates throughout the United States, in N.W.A., and A.W.A. and W.W.W.F. territories. And in this exclusive interview, Dick answers some of the questions which have been plaguing fans for years.**

kind of happened to me.

"I used to wrestle when I was younger but I wasn't experienced enough to ever hope to make it in the big time. But I loved the sport so much I knew I wanted to remain in it in some capacity. One day I was watching the matches in a small arena I won't name. The referee was injured and there wasn't a backup

since the arena was so small. I saw what happened and I ran to the promoter and volunteered my services. I told him I refereed high school and amateur matches. Of course, I never had, but I'd seen enough on TV and in person to believe I could do it. I look back on that incident now and I realize I was terrible, probably because I





*Dick watches intently as Ivan Koloff hurtles down on Bruno Sammartino in their famous match where Koloff won the W.W.W.F. title. Dick considers it the greatest match he ever refereed. He's called on to referee title matches in all territories—the only referee so honored!*

territories in the United States—another facet of his career which came about rather by accident.

"I happened to be in Florida on vacation," he recalled, "and I went to see the wrestling matches. One of the referees didn't show up and since a few of the wrestlers knew me from W.W.W.F. territory they suggested I step in. I agreed. Then I found out the match I'd be handling. Johnny Valentine vs. Eddie Graham. What a war that was! But I managed to get out of it alive and so did Valentine and Graham, so I guess word got around that I could work outside of New York where there aren't as many restrictions as there are here. Since then, whenever I travel somewhere, if I let a promoter know I'll be there he'll usually take advantage of the fact that a Madison Square Garden referee is available and use me. It's a status thing for some of them to get a referee from the Garden. In the past year I've worked New York, Boston and Washington for the W.W.W.F., Florida and California for the N.W.A. and Wisconsin and Minneapolis for the A.W.A."

New York fans complain that cage matches, brass knuckles matches, girls' matches, battle royals and such aren't allowed in that state. As a referee who has worked all territories, you have handled those kinds of matches. Do you think it's about time New York had them too?

"That's hard to say," he noted, "because so far those kind of matches haven't resulted in the kind of incidents that the Commission in New York fears. The Commission is worried about the possibility of a wrestler getting killed. They want to protect the wrestlers just as they want to protect the boxers. You remember Boxing's tragic Benny "Kid" Paret incident. They want to make

*(Continued on page 50)*

*Dick counts as Koloff has Sammartino pinned to the canvas. "I expected Bruno to get up at the count of two as he always did," Dick remembers, "and I was the most surprised man in the house when I counted to three."*

was so scared. I bluffed my way through the whole thing. Evidently I was good enough so that the promoter asked me to serve as backup. It meant not having to pay for a ticket so I agreed. Meanwhile, I watched referees every chance I could. I asked hundreds of questions and picked up pointers at every match. When the referee at that

small arena retired, I took over.

"Eventually I came to New York, took the licensing test and passed. I was a fully-certified referee for the World Wide Wrestling Federation. But I never stopped reading or asking questions or watching other referees. You never stop learning in this business."

Dick is unique in that he works all

# What Happens When . . . APARTMENT HOUSE WRESTLING GETS AN UNINVITED GUEST

By DAVE TASHMAN

Exclusive Photos By Theo Ehret

*Janet is dead set on revenge as she chokes Anne (below) until the girl's face turns blue. Should the redhead have challenged Janet to the match? She thinks so (right) as she digs her fingernails into Janet's scalp and twists and scratches her ears.*



**W**HEN THE PHONE rang at 8 A.M., Janet couldn't imagine who would be calling.

It was Saturday. She had been out till 5 a.m. and she was dead tired.

It must be important, thought the pretty blonde. She rolled to the other side of the bed, grabbed for the phone, but dropped the receiver to the floor.

She lifted the receiver by the cord, put it to her ear and heard "Hello Janet, it's about time you got up!"

The voice was completely unfamiliar to her.

"Who the heck is this?" she asked.

"This is Anne, and you don't know me," answered the voice."





*Redheaded Anne drags all of the blonde's weight on her back (left) just before slamming Janet to the floor. Anne clenches her fists (right) as the blonde slowly applies a very painful hold, pulling Anne's legs apart until the girl is nearly split in two!*

"I don't have time for games at this hour of the morning," yelled Janet, with whatever strength she could muster from four hours sleep.

"This isn't any game," answered Anne. "Are you in the mood for some tough wrestling?"

"I'm not in the mood for even talking to you, whoever you are!" answered Janet. "Now what the hell do you want?"

"Let me tell you how I know you, Janet," answered the voice. "I know you like to wrestle for the apartment house crowd, and that you had one helluva furious match with that girl Judy who used to be your roommate."

Janet's sleepy mind went back to that day in her apartment when she wrestled with her roommate for the constantly growing number of fans of apartment house wrestling.

She remembered too that her former roommate (and it was no accident she was no longer her roommate), came so very close to breaking her arm, had ripped into her toes with her teeth, scratched and bit into her cheek until blood was flowing and punched and scratched all over her body.

Weeks had passed, but Janet was still sore from that battle. But that was an improvement from the excruciating pain she suffered during the match.

"I guess you haven't forgotten that match," continued the stranger on the phone. "I've heard about it and seen pictures of it, and I'm very interested in it."

"And I was very pleased to hear and see that you got what you deserved. I was pleased to hear you were kicked, punched, scratched and bitten until you were almost unconscious."

"What the hell do you want?" interrupted Janet.

"Don't interrupt me, you little witch!" screamed Anne. "I want to tell you I'm glad you got the hell beaten out of you. I know about how you grabbed your roommate's boyfriend away from her. You deserved every pain, bruise and cut you got!"

"Am I supposed to be glad you're glad?" answered Janet angrily. "What do you want from me?"

"That's what I'm getting to, you blonde witch!" Anne shouted. "I think you're a lousy wrestler and you deserve more punishment. I'd love to smash your pretty face up and make sure you remember your pain a lot longer this time."

"I don't accept threats like that!" screamed Janet. "If you want to challenge me to a match, that's one thing. But the way you're going about this, I have only one thing to say to you good bye!" With that Janet slammed down the phone.

It felt good to get back to sleep, and Janet was convinced that she was through with the annoying caller for good. The phone didn't ring even once after that.

She was preparing lunch when the doorbell rang. She opened it to find a redhead outside.

*Continued*



*Janet's hair goes flying and her face shows the strain as Anne kicks out of the foot-hold.*



**What happens when a girl reads about an apartment house wrestling match? Sometimes it infuriates her to the extent that she decides to take matters into her own hands. And that's exactly what Ann did!**



*Anne digs her teeth into a cut on Janet's face (above) that she started bleeding with her sharp nails. Janet screams in agony. She wipes off some blood (below).*



*Janet starts repaying Anne for all the pain and anguish the red-head caused her. She applies a stranglehold and leaves her (above) gasping for air.*



"Hello," said the redhead. "I'm Anne. I think you remember my call."

"You've got some nerve to call on me like this," said Janet.

"I didn't come here to call on you," said Anne with vengeance in her eye. "I came here to beat the living daylights out of you — fair and square, of course, in a wrestling match."

"Come on in," Anne instructed someone behind her. He was a photographer. "Hello," he said. "I'm here for the apartment house wrestling match."

"There's no match here!" yelled Janet. "I don't even have my bikini back from the laundry."

"Don't worry about that," whispered Anne, while pushing her way in. She shoved Janet onto the couch and then lifted her up by the top of her dress.

With one swift movement, she ripped Janet's dress open, sending buttons flying all over the room. A second later Janet was wearing nothing but her bra and panties.

She hadn't even enough time to be

embarrassed when Anne stripped down to her bra and panties, kicked Janet in the stomach, and sent her flying to the floor.

"Look, if there isn't going to be a wrestling match here, I'll leave," said the photographer.

"No," said Janet. "There's gonna be one helluva wrestling match here. Take all the pictures you want. This girl wants to wrestle and she'll get more than she bargained for!"

From that moment on there was no doubt these girls would wrestle. They were going at it like their very lives depended on it.

Janet didn't have time to figure out just why Anne was so anxious to beat "the living daylights" out of her.

Maybe Anne also had a boyfriend stolen by a roommate. And maybe Anne never had a chance to get that girl back. So she was taking it out on Janet.

Or maybe Anne just didn't like Janet's looks.

But whatever the reason, Anne was beating Janet up so badly that within minutes black and blue marks started





to appear on her body.

A large welt formed on her right thigh. A small cut appeared on her lower lip. Janet's right arm burned from the deep scratch Anne had embedded with her sharp nails.

Janet winced in pain from the wound. It was the wrong thing to do. Once Anne realized how much it hurt Janet, she pounded her fist into the wound. She punched her there again and then sent her clenched fist speeding towards Janet's mouth.

The pretty blonde was knocked over by the force of the punch, and thought one of her teeth was loosened. She checked to find it wasn't really loose, but while she checked it, Anne forcefully kicked the pained girl in the stomach.

The blonde was getting angry as well as hurt. She somehow got up and dropped-kicked Anne to the floor. Then she attempted to put Anne into one of the most uncomfortable positions possible.

With the redhead flat on the floor, she grabbed one of her ankles in each hand and spread the girl's legs as far apart from each other as she could.

Anne was screaming at the top of her lungs. She felt like she was being split in two. And the worst was yet to come.

Janet decided Anne was not uncomfortable enough. While she was stretching the redhead's legs, and while the poor girl was screaming in pain, the blonde started kicking her foot into her stomach.

(Continued on page 60)

*Janet continues choking Anne and pulling her hair while the redhead lies helpless (above-left). The blonde is giving Anne a terrible headache (above-right) as she presses forcefully on Anne's head. But Anne gives Janet a worse headache (right) as she punches her in the face while her head is being crushed like a grapefruit between her legs. To make the blonde suffer more, she pulls on her hair.*



**"YOU DON'T HAVE  
TO BE A TEENAGER  
TO BE TUNED IN"**



**Says the  
Sensational Ray Mendoza**



**S**WARMS OF TEENAGERS crowded around Ray Mendoza as he entered the jam-packed Olympic Auditorium in Los Angeles. Almost instantly they began chanting "Potoro de Oro" in Spanish. Wearing a colorful serape over his wrestling trunks, Mendoza smiled and waved to his army of followers.

One young girl pushed her way through the crowd and planted a kiss on his cheek. An old man shouted "Bravo!"

It was obvious that Mendoza—"Potoro de Oro"—was their hero. To them he was "The Golden Colt," the English translation of the phrase. But why has this full-blooded Yaqui Indian suddenly captured the hearts of countless Mexicans in California?

It's true that he is their representative, their spokesman. He brings pride to his people because Ray Mendoza is so very good. A few years ago he was world middle-weight wrestling champion. Now he whips most of the top heavy-weights in the business.

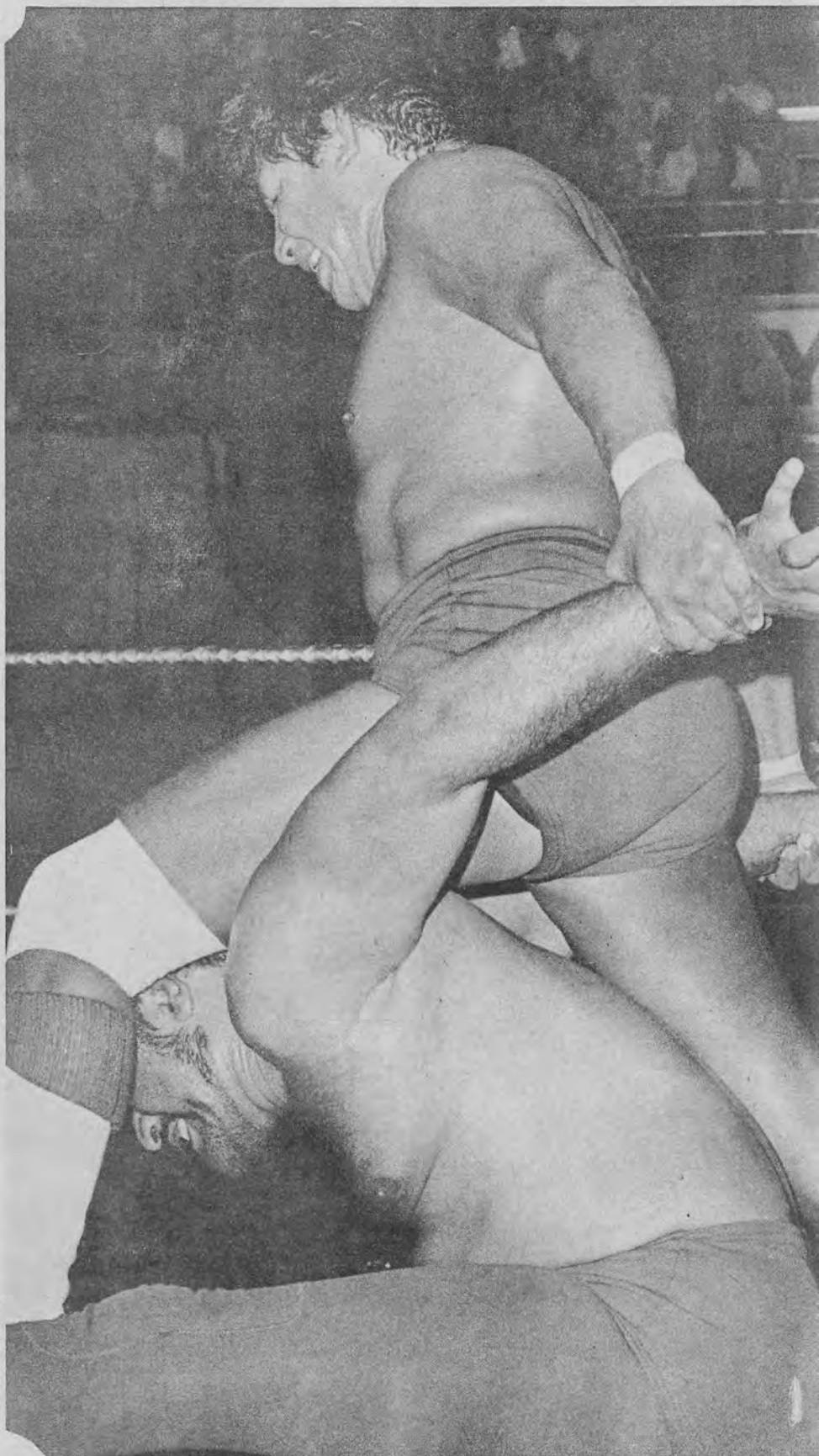
But he's more than a ring artist to these youngsters. There are many other wrestlers on the West Coast they could idolize, even try to emulate. Yet they follow Ray Mendoza as if he were the Pied Piper of Hamelin.

Ray Mendoza supplied the simple answer. "You don't have to be a teenager to be tuned in.

"I understand these kids. I know what makes them tick. To many of them I'm almost like a father image. Hell, I know all about kids. I have eight of my own, ranging from 7 to 18.

"A lot of these youngsters feel they can talk to me where they can't talk to their own parents. From me they get straight answers—no beating around the bush.

*(Continued on page 54)*



Mendoza, who has originated a vast arsenal of holds which few wrestlers have been able to execute, locks Cyclone Negro in what Ray calls "My reverse surfboard." Because he is capable of exciting fans with unique holds of this kind, Ray has quickly developed into a top attraction.



Popular Reggie Parks (left) shows off his Missouri championship belt as Dr. X sneaks into the picture by sticking his head under Reggie's left arm. Right: Reggie has an excellent physique—topped off by his "iron stomach."

**Thousands of men have tried to put a dent in Reggie Parks' mid-section. But nobody's been successful yet. Even a Volkswagen bus couldn't faze...**

**REGGIE  
PARKS-**

**THE MAN  
WITH THE  
IRON  
STOMACH**







Reggie (left) prepares to whip big Lars Anderson into the turnbuckle during his upset victory over Lars. Below: "Pretty Boy" Larry Hennig gets treated to one of Reggie Parks' power-packed headlocks.

**R**AY STEVENS GRABBED his opponent by the arm and whipped him into the ropes. As his opponent bounced off, Ray curled his fingers into a fist, preparing to smash it into the mid-section of his rebounding opponent. As hard as he could, Ray drove his fist into his opponent's stomach.

"Aaaahhhh!!!" Stevens screamed as his wrist went limp.

And his opponent—Reggie Parks—just stood there and laughed. The iron stomach had claimed another victim.

They call Reggie Parks "The Man With The Iron Stomach." But there are always enough non-believers who feel *they* can put a dent in the immovable object. After all, a stomach is one of the most vulnerable parts of the human anatomy. There *must* be a limit to how hard a person can make his stomach. Isn't there?

With Parks there evidently isn't. His stomach is like a granite fortress. It has taken every conceivable sort of pounding and is always ready for more. Reggie has allowed Stan Pulaksi, his 250-pound tag team partner, to jump off the top of a six-foot ladder and land on his stomach with both heels! He has publicly lain flat on his back while letting a Volkswagen bus ride across his mid-section! He has allowed three and 400-pound men to hammer away relentlessly at his stomach without moving an eyebrow! It has reached the point where most wrestlers won't even bother trying to stop Parks with



body punches anymore. It's a waste of time. But from time to time there's always one—like Ray Stevens—who simply can't resist the lure of smashing his fist into that unprotected mid-section. And like all the others before him—Stevens met with the same disastrous results.

Born and raised in Melbourne, Australia, Reggie Parks came to Canada as a teenager when his parents pulled up stakes and settled in Edmonton, Alberta. He was just a skinny youngster at that time surrounded by rugged, outdoor types. "I simply got tired of being called 'skinny' all the time," Reggie remembers, "so I began a program of regu-



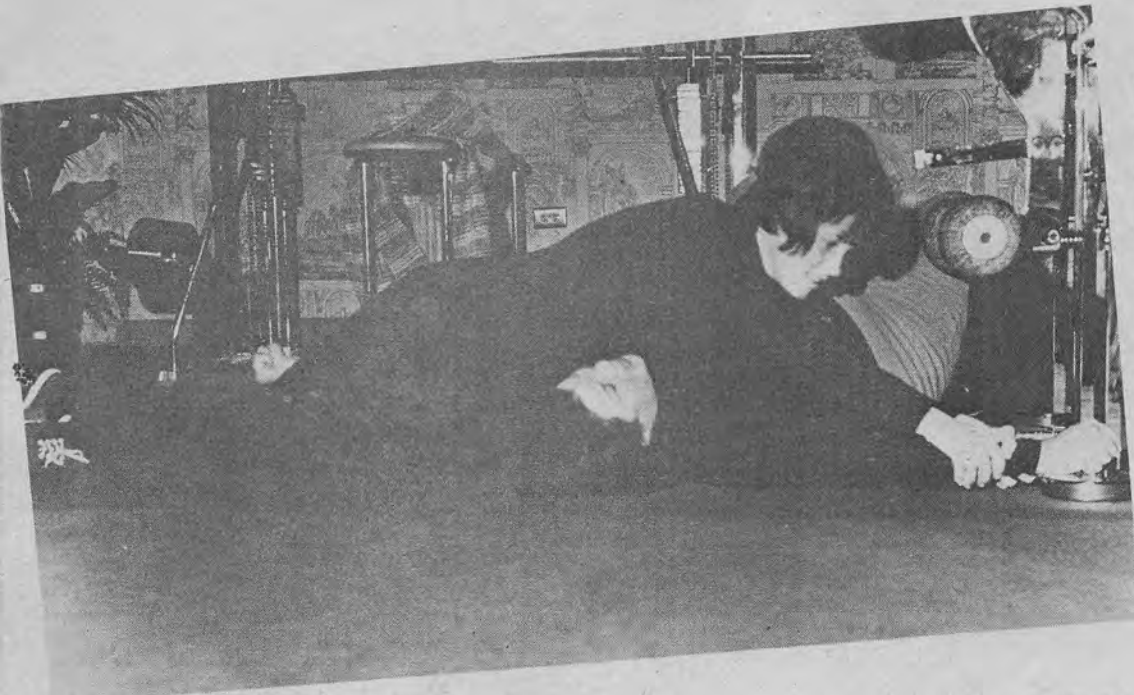
Mad Dog Vachon flips Reggie over his head as Parks comes bounding off the ropes. But the Australian did a complete somersault, landing on his feet, and surprised Mad Dog.

lar workouts and weightlifting. I was good enough to do some competitive lifting but I wanted to find a way to put my muscles to work for me outside of weightlifting."

A professional wrestler named Stu Hart, now a promoter in Calgary, Alberta, thought Reggie would make a fine wrestler. So Stu tutored him in the fundamentals of the sport. When Hart got through with him, Reggie, only 19, was already an accomplished grappler. Just a rookie, the popular Aussie was holding his own with much more experienced rivals.

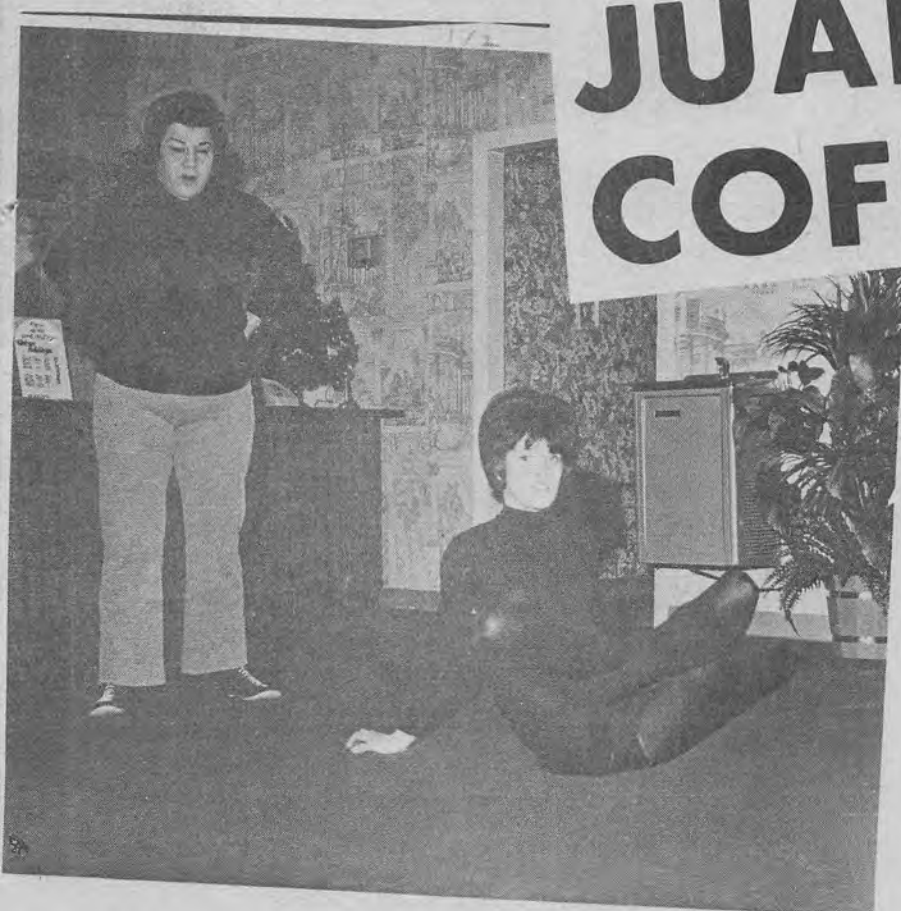
His busy schedule, however, never

*(Continued on page 58)*



*During a strenuous workout, Terry tries to pin Juanita. But Juanita flung Terry off and half-way across the room! In her prime, Juanita was one of the best in the business. "I love to train girls to wrestle and keep fit." Morgana Morgan, a top pro, credits Juanita with much of what she knows today. "She's a marvelous woman," Morgana says. "She really is a tough teacher and she gets results that way."*

# JUANITA COFFMAN—



*Under Juanita's watchful eye, Terry Turner warms up by doing some yoga exercises. Juanita is a very strict perfectionist and demands hard work.*

**P**ROFESSIONAL WRESTLING WAS good to Juanita Coffman. In return, she tries to be good to wrestling.

Juanita, since her retirement many years ago, has offered her help to all those who have sought her council. Her vast wealth of experience and wrestling savvy are aids that any girl wrestler would be happy to have. What's more, the girls often learn more than they had hoped to.

Morgana Morgan is one of the young ladies who sought out Juanita before beginning her career.

**If professional wrestling ever has a Hall Of Fame, one of the first women who should be inducted is Juanita Coffman. Although she has been retired from the sport for a number of years, she never stops trying to contribute to its growth**





Photos By Gene Gordon

# ONE OF WRESTLING'S GREAT WOMEN



*Terry's doin' just fine  
as she shows Juanita  
what she's learned  
(left and above).*

Juanita explained many things that take years to learn. Morgana didn't leave Juanita's home a professional, but she had a good head start.

The latest protoge of Juanita's is Terese Turner. Terese had gone to Juanita's just to speak to her idol. Within hours, Terese had a new trainer.

Juanita's knowledge of how to train a girl wrestler is rated tops. What makes her such a great trainer is that she can adapt her skills to the wrestler she is training. Within three days, she had discovered Terese's strengths and weaknesses. On the fourth day, they began the difficult task of correcting a rookie's mistakes.

Terese was a willing pupil and fast learner. Within weeks of hard

work, Terese became almost a completely different wrestler. Many of the rough edges were smoothed away and many mistakes that Terese might have made from inexperience she won't make now.

Juanita Coffman can cram years of wrestling experience into a few weeks of intensive training. Terese Turner is well on her way to becoming a dangerously effective girl wrestler. Thanks to Juanita Coffman.

The knowledge Juanita is willing to give away so easily took many rough and tumble years to learn. A game scrapper, Juanita wrestled the best of her time. She was a smart wrestler, and nobody fooled her the same way twice.

When she retired from the sport, everyone assumed Juanita would open a school for girl wrestlers. But

Juanita didn't want to teach girls who might not have what it takes to be professionals. Also, she felt guilty taking more money from the sport of wrestling.

Instead, she simply went to the house she bought with the money she earned and began to take it easy. However, girls who had heard of Juanita's legendary wrestling savvy began to visit her and ask her about the sport and the profession. Juanita would help those who she felt showed promise.

Today, Juanita helps many young girls because she believes in the continuance of the sport. She spends the most time with those whom she feels have the most promise.

Juanita is one of the great ladies of wrestling. She has given graciously of her time and herself to help the sport she loves. □

# IS THERE A PLOT TO WIPE OUT JOE LEDUC?



*Even though he's drenched in his own blood, Marcel Dubois (above) keeps right on swinging, hoping to floor Joe. Karl Von Shotz bites flesh from Joe's head (right). Von Shotz Dubois and Karl Von Hess are said to be plotting against Joe Leduc.*

**I**S THERE A plot to have Joe Leduc "bumped off?"

"I'm beginning to think so," Leduc recently admitted. "It seems that every time I wrestle my opponents they cut me to shreds with foreign objects, hoping I'll bleed to death."

Joe may not be far from the truth. Through our investigative staff we've stumbled onto a plot that may be exactly what Joe is thinking about. It involves Kurt Von Hess, Marcel Dubois and Karl Von Shotz.

From what we've been able to unscramble, these three are very jealous of Leduc's success and plan to do something about it, so the spotlight, so to say, will fall on *them*.

"I can't fully deny that," Dubois said when called on the carpet. "I

*(Continued on page 66)*



Exclusive Photos By Tony Lanza

**Rumors of a three-man plot against him do not bother Joe LeDuc. Not in the least. And although the three men after his hide are dangerous, Joe only smiles and says "Bring 'em on!"**





For those who believe in Astrology, things like positions of planets, moons, and a person's sign are of vital importance. Since many people do believe in Astrology we asked a leading expert in the field to chart the forthcoming year for some of wrestling's biggest stars. Here, exclusively, are his surprise answers

*Continued*



## CHIEF J. STRONGBOW

The Chief seems to have a turbulent year ahead of him. While a title shot seems a certainty, the outcome will not be a total success. Even if he is victorious, he will be forced to pay too high a price. This year, the stars say Strongbow will be accident prone. While this does not mean he will be victimized by accidents, great caution must be exercised at all times. Despite setbacks and disappointments, the Chief will continue to be one of the most popular wrestlers around. He will cause more disappointments than suffer them, making many opponents wish they'd never met him. However, look for the Chief to suffer a big upset. But he will brutally avenge the defeat in a rematch. As for his personal life, the Chief will continue to find great strength and comfort from his immediate family and a few close friends. He will lose many friends, but will be happy when he discovers they weren't really his friends at all. April will be his cruelest month and the fall will be the happiest time of the year.

## ANDRE THE GIANT

This will be *the* year for the mammoth wrestler, at least professionally. He will travel extensively around the country, thrilling fans and pulverizing opponents. Wrestlers everywhere will be unsuccessful trying to stop Andre, and they'll be battered badly for their efforts. This year, Andre will continue to develop his skills, and those who see him only in the beginning and end of the year will be astonished at the grace he will have developed. Though he will not actively seek it himself, the fans will demand he get a title shot by October. Andre will do well to ignore their shouts and wait until next year before trying to become the champion. In his personal life, Andre will become sadder and wiser. Many will latch on to him for the glamor and excitement. In November, his personal life will be in great upheaval. Hopefully, he will be able to recognize who his true friends are, but that is doubtful. The stars say that ridding himself of leeches will also mean losing friends. His enormously successful professional life will contrast with his sad personal life.



## PEDRO MORALES

Never have the stars been so ominous for Pedro and his title. Travel is very dangerous for him and strangers will not become friends. Pride goeth before a fall, and Pedro will feel obligated to respond to false accusations. While the result of these matches is in doubt, none will be matches Pedro will remember fondly. Responding to challenges may prove Pedro's downfall. Professionally, it will be a very hard year for Morales, and his title will be in jeopardy. If he manages to hold on to his title, the physical sacrifices will be great. This will be a year Pedro will be more than happy to forget. Fortunately, his professional struggles will be made easier by his personal life. He will be able to find great strength from those around him. Look for Pedro to develop new depth as a human being. If he is still champion at the end of the year, it will be because of inner strength he has found in new relationships. We cannot stress enough, however, how dangerous travel will be for him. Anywhere out of a 300-mile radius of his home could mean certain doom and not only in the ring.





## JACK BRISCO

The conjunction of Mars and Jupiter means great personal stress for Jack in the coming year. Pressures from his family and his profession will tear at his nerves and all but his closest friends will lose faith in him at times. Jack might even adopt a new wrestling style, angering many of his fans. Look for the summer months to be a time of great upheaval for Jack and his fans. Tensions will grow and only the truly faithful will stay by him. Watch for his matches to become more bloody and brutal. There is a strong possibility of an opponent becoming permanently injured because of uncontrolled Brisco anger. This will probably occur in early fall. There will be a strong personality change in late fall, but whether for good or bad is unclear. Personally, it will be a hard year for Jack, also. Brother Jerry will become more and more restless as the title remains with Jack. The family relations will become increasingly strained and the damage may be irreparable. By December, the anger and frustration may have to be settled in the ring. All in all, Jack will be ecstatic to see 1974 behind him.



## BOBBY SHANE

Bobby will have a new valette by February and it would do well for him to check her chart very carefully. Any woman whose sign is Cancer, Pisces, Capricorn, or Taurus will cause Bobby much anguish and trouble. A woman with her moon in Leo or Gemini will be a perfect helpmate for Shane and their partnership will be a happy one. As for his career, the love-hate relationship he has with the fans will continue. There is nothing in the stars to suggest that Shane will learn humility. If anything, Shane's pride and vanity will increase during the coming year. There is no sign of his wrestling skills diminishing. He will continue to be the imaginative and controversial wrestler who has excited fans for years. However, there are signs that the summer will be a time of great stress that will not be resolved until late fall. This crisis will come when Bobby unsuccessfully tries to combine personal and professional obligations to the detriment of both. We can only warn him to keep his social and wrestling lives strictly separate. But the signs are so strong that we know our warnings will fall on deaf ears. It will probably be early November before Shane feels that the mess is cleared up.



## THE SHIEK

There are definite signs that The Sheik and Abdullah Farouk will continue to be together, but neither will benefit from the association. They will egg each other on to make The Sheik's matches more and more bloody. Each will feed the other's bloodlust even after tragedy strikes. Either Sheik or an opponent will be injured, perhaps permanently, definitely seriously. There might even be a real movement to have either or both The Sheik and Abdullah banned from wrestling, but all signs predict the movement will be unsuccessful. It will not affect the pair, who will continue as if the movement does not exist. Look for the injury to occur in late spring and look for the banning movement to have its greatest following in mid-summer. It will probably be disbanded by late October. As for his personal life, The Sheik will be very happy with all friends he meets before July. All relationships made after August will end quickly and disastrously. The Sheik's health will be unaffected by disease, at least until the end of November. We urge him to seek out warm climates when possible and let others drive when at all possible.



## BRUNO SAMMARTINO

If Bruno can be cautious and patient, he is in for a great year. While the winter will open up many new horizons for Bruno, he will do well not to make any decisions until mid-spring, maybe later. He must be wary to make any business ventures with a Pisces, unless that person is near or on a cusp. He cannot go wrong following the advice of a Libra whom he'll probably meet at the end of March. However, he can run the risk of being too cautious. If he doesn't make a decision before July, only failure can occur. He will do well not to leave the country for more than three weeks at a time and not travel at all during August. Friendships made during this year will be valuable for years to come, but there will be many who will try to do him in. He must be wary of false friends. But once he is sure of somebody, they can be trusted implicitly. However, in business and in the ring he must show no mercy. The signs are very clear that any misplaced compassion will result in tragedy. Bruno must also be very careful of his health, especially during the summer. It would not be ridiculous if he went to a doctor at least three times during July and August for a check-up.



## ERNIE LADD

Ernie may spring back from his injury better than ever only to be reinjured. If Ernie travels north during the late winter he will be hurt so badly his broken leg will look like a slightly sprained finger by comparison. The injury may not occur in the ring, but it will happen if Ernie travels any farther north than Montreal. If he remains in the southern parts of the world, Ernie can look forward to great success. That may not mean victory, but his opponents will have to be carried from the ring many times. Ladd will continue his association with Bobby Heenan unless a Capricorn comes between them. Any break-up will occur before September, when Ladd should have a peaceful fall and early winter. There are signs his personal life will go smoothly until September, when domestic trouble will begin to interfere with his career. This will make for a stormy September, but the fall will be a good time for Ernie. His health will be an important worry during the summer but no major illness should occur during the year. One word of caution, Ernie, stay within the city, because many people are very important to you this year.



## TERRY FUNK

Terry will be happy to know that this year promises to be filled with professional conflicts. In other words, his many feuds will continue throughout the year. Also, Terry should be successful with his feuds, leaving many wrestlers nursing bruises and cuts. However, Terry should be aware of those he mistakenly believes are his friends and who will betray him in the ring. They will probably be those with their sign in Cancer and under the influence of the planet Uranus. Sometime in August they will show their true colors if Terry is not careful. If he is planning a vacation, November and December are good times to avoid professional commitments. Especially during early December, Terry should take a well-deserved rest. In his personal life, Terry will have great fortune and happiness. He should take advantage of all financial opportunities, especially those involving Maine real estate and food processing. However, if he waits more than one month before making a decision, forget it. Terry would have to try hard to make this anything but a fine year for him.







## HARLEY RACE

If a future was ever cloudy, it is the future of Harley Race. While his sun and moon signs point to success, the conjunction of his planets predict that he is in real trouble professionally. It is an astrological war going on that will have to be determined by Race's own personal strength. However, he should avoid Geminis and Cancers and seek the advice of Capricorns. It is doubtful any real tragedy or outstanding success can occur to a person with a horoscope in such turbulence, but years of astrological prediction has taught that one should never underestimate personal strength. Harley would be wise to travel extensively this year. In any other way he can, he should maintain a state of constant change. Any long-range plans will blow up in his face. In his personal life, he should not make any new close friends or deep enemies. Hatred can be especially destructive this year and should be avoided. Harley would do well to lay low this year. Any major plans begun this year will probably end in disaster.

## VERNE GAGNE

It will be another good year for the personable Gagne. He will probably expand his interests away from his wrestling career. It is unclear whether or not he will retain his championship, but many factors will soften the blow. First, his popularity will remain at an all-time high with fans following him no matter what happens. Secondly, his school for young wrestlers will prosper and grow. Verne will get great satisfaction from his students' accomplishments. Lastly, and most importantly, the career of his son, Greg, will catch fire and be a source of great joy for his proud father. Verne should pursue business interests not related to wrestling during the fall and early winter. He should concentrate heavily on his wrestling career during the summer. If possible, late spring should be devoted entirely to his school and family. He will want to give Greg advice, but the stars say he should keep his own council, at least for the present. His health should avoid traveling during April and use other methods of transportation besides planes. It would make good sense to travel by train in late spring.



## BILLY GRAHAM

If possible, this year will be even better professionally for the "Superstar." His stars predict great fortune for him. He should take advantage of every opportunity to advance himself. They can end only in success. Travel will be especially rewarding in the first four months of the year. It is suggested that Billy take it easy this summer and not try to accept any important challenges. He should renew his career full-blast in the fall and turn down no opportunities during October. His stars say that all will come easily if he waits. As for a championship shot and victory, that is questionable only when one considers his opponents. Only a Libra or a Taurus stands a chance of defeating Billy. Even a Taurus or a Libra will have difficulty defeating Billy in the fall. In his personal life, the impossible may happen—a woman may do him wrong. His life will be controlled by a woman from May to October when she will leave him. He will spring back from this tragic encounter but there is no indication how long the recuperation process will be.

*(continued from page 56)*

## A REFEREE ANSWERS YOUR QUESTIONS *(Continued from Page 33)*

sure nothing like that happens in wrestling."

One of the most frequently-asked questions we receive is who the referees consider the greatest wrestlers and which matches were the greatest matches they ever handled. We put these to Dick.

"There are three men whom I consider the greatest wrestlers in the world," he replied, "and I can't separate the three. Verne Gagne, Lou Thesz and Bruno Sammartino are the greatest I ever saw. I refereed in Bruno's matches a number of times and I've handled some of Gagne's matches, although I never refereed a match in which Thesz wrestled.

"Gagne probably impresses me as much as any man in wrestling. The things he does are amazing. Remember, he had a tremendous amateur background and has been a pro for 20 years. His speed, his knowledge of holds and escapes, and his conditioning are unbelievable.

"Sammartino is a different type of wrestler. I think he's the strongest man there is. He doesn't have the quickness or knowledge of holds Gagne does. But Bruno has the biggest heart and greatest amount of courage I've ever seen. Plus his strength is overpowering.

"Thesz combines the best of the other two—strength, speed, conditioning, knowledge of holds and escapes and just plain experience. Remember, he's been going for more than 30 years. That's something.

"But the greatest match I've ever seen was one I had the pleasure of refereeing—the title match between Bruno Sammartino and Ivan Koloff. It was the most surprising match I ever saw. I think I was more stunned than the fans. Just three weeks before, I refereed a six-man tag team match in Washington between Bruno, Bobo Brazil and Gorilla Monsoon against Koloff and the Mongols. Koloff looked absolutely great that night. But when he next faced Bruno three weeks later, there seemed to be no indication that he'd be any tougher than the two other times he wrestled him or the time three weeks prior. I remember Koloff coming off the ropes and pinning Bruno. I began counting. I must have counted to two over Bruno a thousand times, and always the man pinning him



*Dick bends over to ask Juan Caruso if he wants to give up as Tomas Marin keeps Juan in a head scissors. "The secret to being a good referee," notes Dick, "is always being in position where you can see what's going on. After a while you develop an instinct for it."*

came flying off. That's what I expected this time as well. When I said three I just didn't believe it. I was the most surprised man in the Garden."

The Koloff pin after diving off the top rope was a subject of controversy for quite awhile. Many people contend diving off the top rope is illegal and some promoters have gone so far as to ban it. Are dives off the top rope in the rule book or not?

"The rule says a man cannot use the ropes to pin his opponent," Kroll explained. "As soon as a man begins to climb the ropes I begin a count on him. But as soon as he jumps off the ropes that count ends."

Fans constantly complain that referees seem to penalize the scientific wrestlers in tag team matches while letting the dirty wrestlers get away with murder. The illustration is usually given of a referee holding back a wrestler who's trying to come to the rescue of his partner who's getting belted by two villains. Is that the case?

"Sometimes it is," Kroll admitted, "but never purposely. A referee can stop only what he sees. If he sees a man trying to climb into the ring to help his partner, his obligation is to get that man back out of the ring.

What's happening in the corner comes second—because in most instances one of the men in the corner is on the apron where he should be. Usually, it depends which violation a referee sees first. Positioning is very important. Sometimes, because of positioning, a referee might miss a choke or trunks being pulled that fans on that particular side of the ring can see. Remember, A referee sees only one of four possible angles. He can make judgements only on what he sees."

Do certain wrestlers give referees more trouble than others?

"Most definitely. Guys like Killer Kowalski and Baron Von Raschke are very hard to handle because, they'd just as soon push you away or throw you out of the ring to get at their opponent. When someone like that is wrestling I prepare myself for a rough match, although I try to remain totally objective at all times. I know there are some wrestlers who have reputations for bending the rules a bit more than others. But when I'm in there each match is a new match and I try to stay totally objective."

Are referees friends with any wrestlers?

*(Continued on page 52)*



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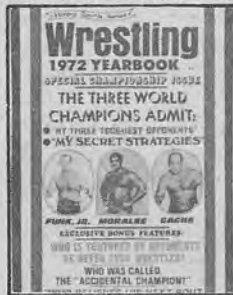
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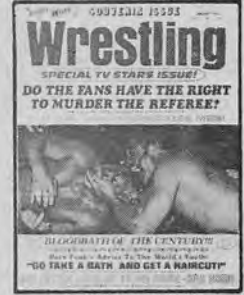
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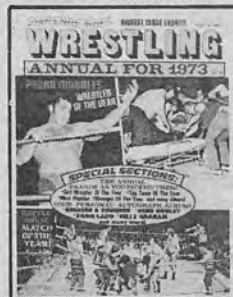
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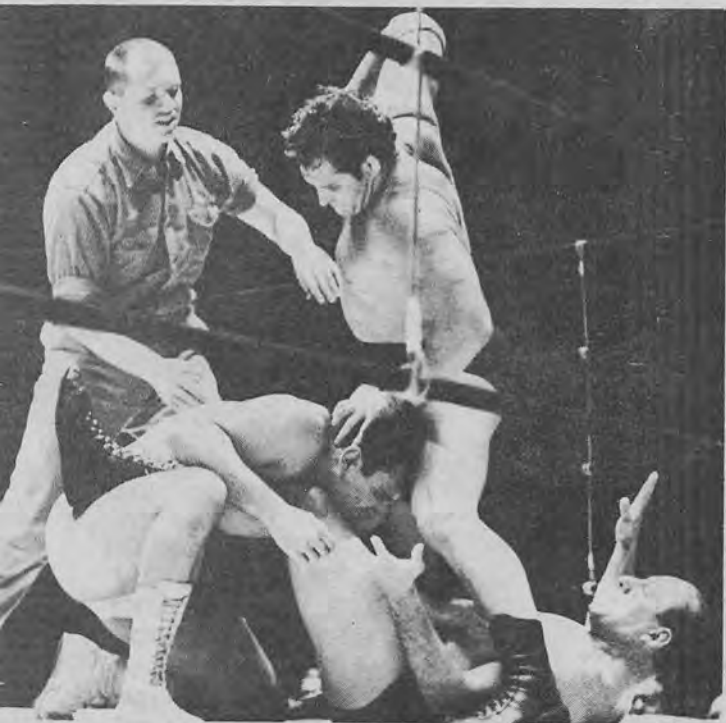
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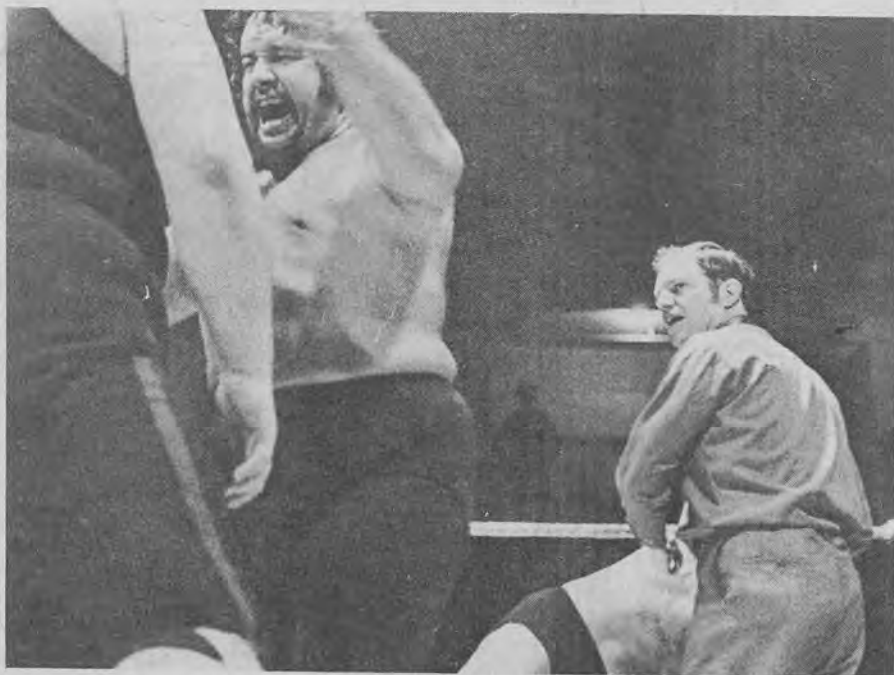
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## A REFEREE ANSWERS YOUR QUESTIONS

(Continued from Page 50)



*In one of his first matches (note Dick's crewcut) he tries to prevent Roy Heffernan from pummeling Pete Sanchez. "This is no good," Dick pointed out. "I should have been in between them. That's what you learn with experience."*



*King Curtis is ripping mad because Dick has just told him he's been disqualified. He is known as a tough man on those who try to use illegal tactics.*

"No. Under no circumstances. We'll talk to them if we meet on the street or see them in the locker room before a match. But we never travel together, go to parties together or socialize together. It wouldn't be fair for me to make friends with some wrestlers. What would happen if I refereed their matches? I'd be accused of showing favoritism. That's

one thing a referee fears most. That's why a referee leads a very lonely existence."

Who among the younger wrestlers do you think will be a superstar?

"One man who impressed me immensely is that English kid Billy Robinson. In fact, I'd say that right now he's better than Verne Gagne! I think if they wrestled each other Robinson would lick him. Of course Robinson is just starting to reach his peak while Verne has been on top for years. A few years ago Gagne

would have beaten him. But today I think Robinson would win."

What does a referee do when he's not refereeing?

"Believe it or not—I like to go to wrestling matches. When I referee a match it's work. I can't sit back and enjoy it. I'm too busy. So I enjoy going to matches as a spectator. But to tell you the truth, I spend as much time watching the referee as I do watching the wrestlers. I remember one time there was an obvious choke, but the referee didn't see it because he was positioned on the opposite side of the ring. The fans on my side saw it and started yelling and screaming. By the time the referee came around to my side the wrestler had let go of the choke and turned it into a chinlock. When the referee went back to the other side—wham—the choke again. The fans began screaming again. I knew exactly what that poor referee was going through. I've been through it myself."

What moment does the referee fear the most?

"There are two things a referee fears. The first is not seeing an obvious infraction of the rules that could seriously injure a wrestler. The second is when a wrestler brings a weapon or some kind of foreign object into the ring. We search them as best we can but some still get through. I think any wrestler caught bringing a foreign object into the ring should be suspended for 30 days the first time it happens and for a year the second time."

Is there anything you'd like to tell the fans before we end the interview?

"Yes. I'd just like to remind them that referees always do the best they can, but no man is capable of seeing everything going on in the ring. Also, referees do not play favorites or bend over backwards before disqualifying a villain as some fans claim. Fans scream when a villain does something the referee misses. But have you ever heard one scream when a popular wrestler hauls off and belts his opponent? No. They're happy when that happens. I'd just like to remind the fans that their favorites would be in a lot more trouble if there weren't referees around to keep things as clean as possible."

Especially nationally-respected referees like Dick Kroll! □



## BOBBY SHANE

(Continued from Page 27)



Shane "corkscrews" Jerry and sends him crashing to the mat. Jerry stuck to the rules even when Shane fouled him several times.

he injured by trying to be too scientific against some of Shane's more illegal and outrageous moves.

"That's the point," Jerry explained to his friends. "If I can conquer my frustration while wrestling Shane, then I can really look at myself proudly in the mirror. What's the good of a test if it isn't difficult?"

But, his friends argued, wasn't Jerry risking personal injury?

"I'd break every bone in my body," Jerry whispered with conviction, "to retain my dignity."

The night of the match arrived and a well-trained but nervous Jerry Brisco faced Bobby Shane. Jerry's friends were as nervous as he was. All were ready to jump into the ring. If Jerry's determination to keep scientific got him in trouble, they would help.

When the referee was giving his instructions, Shane began to instruct. "Because of Brisco's recent and well-deserved reputation as a wild animal with no regard for the rules, I would consider it the least you could do if you would watch him closely. I will do my best to make this an exhibition of scientific wrestling. However, I will not be responsible if this turns into a bloodbath. I will protect myself."

Jerry felt his blood get hot, but then he laughed. Loudly. He shook his head and walked back to his corner. Jerry's friends breathed a little easier.

In the beginning, both wrestlers were cautious. Then Shane charged. Jerry tried to sidestep, but Bobby's forearm lashed out and wrapped around Brisco's neck. The two

powerful bodies fell to the mat and Bobby tightened his hold.

Like a boa constrictor, Shane tightened the grip around Jerry's neck. Fans could hear Jerry's desperate gasps as he was choked tighter and tighter.

Jerry's friends figured that Jerry could escape, but not legally. If the referee couldn't make Shane release the hold, the great test would be over.

But Jerry fooled them all. Finding strength from somewhere, his body arched into a powerful spring. Bobby could not hold onto the flying body. Incredibly, the hold was broken cleanly.

Jerry tried to regain his strength but Shane was desperate. A display of such strength scared him. He realized that a weakened Brisco was the only Brisco he could defeat.

Somehow, he got behind Jerry and his hands trapped Brisco's wrists in a vise-like grip. He snapped Jerry's arms back and shoved his left sole into Jerry's back. The pain was excruciating.

Again, Brisco found the strength to break the hold. Marshaling power he never knew he had, Jerry twisted around. Shane found the hold broken and Bobby knew he was in trouble.

Jerry shook the pain from his body, then went after Bobby Shane. The torture he had been through still made pain shoot through every muscle. Each bruise screamed for revenge!

With an animal scream of attack, Jerry grabbed Shane's hair and started running toward the ring post. Bobby was helpless to stop him. All Shane could do was watch as the ring-post came closer and closer. It would be matter of seconds before his skull would be a scrambled egg.

But Jerry stopped! The titanic struggle between Jerry's anger and integrity took place in a matter of moments. Instead of having his face caked in blood, Shane found himself on the receiving end of Jerry's new submission hold, a wishbone body press. The match was over.

In the dressing room later, friends crowded around Jerry congratulating him on his victory.

"It was the greatest victory of my career," Jerry told the gathering. "It was a victory of my better self over that which had made me hate myself! And I thank Bobby Shane for helping to make it possible." ☐

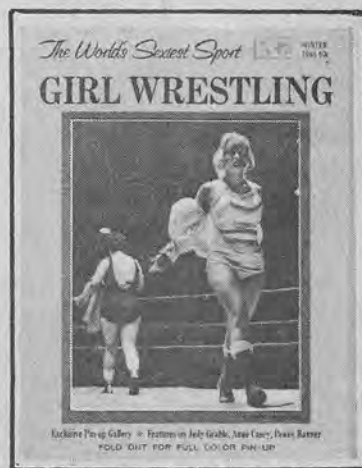
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(Continued from Page 38)

"Maybe I should have been a priest," Mendoza said jokingly. Then he returned to a more serious vein.

"These kids are troubled. These are troubled times. We'll talk about anything—the war, drugs, sex. You name it and I'll try to tell them what I believe. I don't claim to know all the answers. No one does.

"They ask me about marijuana, about heroin. A lot of them see no harm in smoking grass. After all, they say their parents are hooked on pills. They take pills to get high, pills to calm down, pills to stay awake, pills to fall asleep.

"I don't try to make excuses for parents," Mendoza said. "I just tell 'em that pills, marijuana and heroin are no damn good. You won't see any needle marks on my body.

"To my way of thinking a dope pusher is a murderer. He's killing just as if he pulled the trigger of a pistol. These bums should get life in prison. Lock 'em up and throw the key away!"

Mendoza will spend hours in his dressing room after a match, talking to anyone who stops by. He talks at Boys Clubs when he can take the time from his busy schedule.

He's not just a sideline spectator. He gets involved and that's a big reason for his huge following.

Another reason is his style. Ray Mendoza didn't get the nickname "The Golden Colt" for nothing. He's no longer a youngster—he admits to 39—but Mendoza is like a whirling dervish in the ring. Always moving, an elusive small man battling giants—and winning.

Mendoza is small as big-time wrestlers go. He packs 210 pounds on his muscular 6-foot frame. In many cases, he'll spot an opponent 60 or 70 pounds, but once Ray slaps on his feared *Inverted Universal*—a nelson with a leg lock—it's all over.

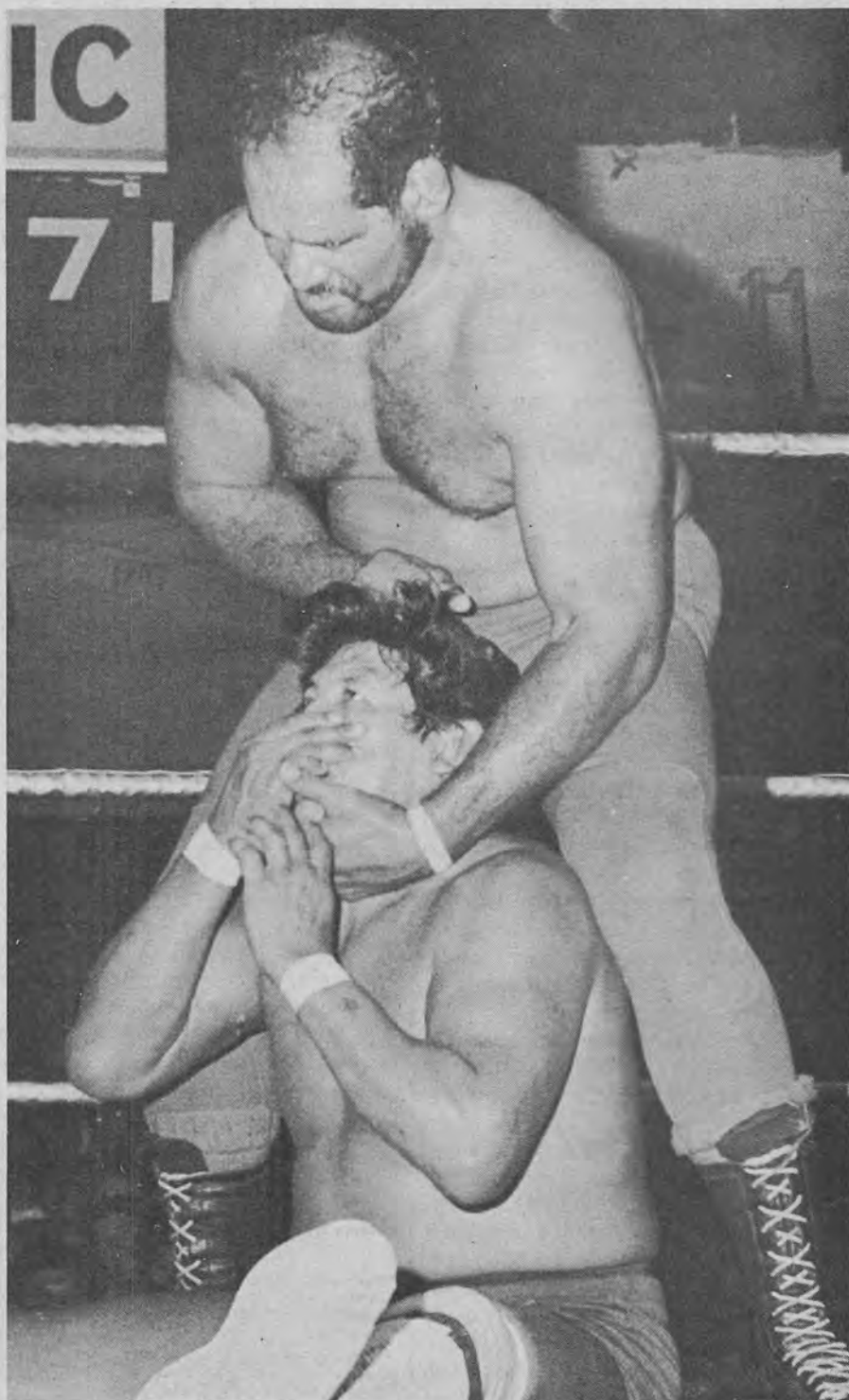
"It took me a long time to learn this business," Ray said. "I spent four years as an amateur." He started wrestling for \$2 a match. Now Mendoza earns \$3,000 a match and the promoters say he's worth every penny.

Ray admits he didn't start out to become a wrestler. He was a boxer in his native Mexico.

"My manager was a bug on me being on time," he recalled. "But one day I overslept and when I got to the gym it was too late for me to fight. I got mad at my manager and

told him I was going to work out with the wrestlers who also worked out in the same gym.

"So I started fooling around with wrestling and as I kept learning the more I liked it. But I still hadn't given up on being a boxer. The night before I was to have a fight



Cyclone Negro, having worked his way behind Mendoza, roughs up his smaller foe by whacking him on top of the head and twisting his chin.



I was working out with a pro wrestler. Before I knew it he picked me up and gave me a body slam. Man, it felt like he'd broken every bone in my body. He really hadn't, but I was in no shape to go through with the fight. From then on I decided it was wrestling for me."

Up until then, Ray was a part-time athlete. Married at the age of 16, he worked for the Health Department in Mexico City. Acting on impulse, he quit the job and devoted full time to learning to become a wrestler.

"I lifted weights, ate the right food and put my whole life into it. I had to bring my weight up from 160 pounds, but it wasn't too hard because I always had trouble staying slim. Now I can eat all I want and not worry about the scale."

Quickly he became a big drawing card in Mexico. He was named *Wrestler of the Year* four times, first in 1956.

Ray became a national hero, and also a rich one. He piled up enough money to be able to live the good life, and he now owns a fleet of taxis in Mexico City.

Ray could retire, but he's not ready for the rocking chair yet.

"This is the most dangerous sport in the world," he says. "Nothing compares to it." And a man who has scaled 10,000-foot peaks in Mexico should know.

His left hand has been broken so many times Ray's lost count. Both of his knees have been broken. His forehead is a mass of scar tissue. During one match, he was thrown into the ring post and when he pulled himself free, his head was hooked on a wire. It took 37 stitches to close the gaping wound.

He has twice been paralyzed—once from the waist up. Once he couldn't move his left arm and left leg.

"The thought of being crippled for life terrified me," Ray recalled with a shudder. "But, thank the Lord, everything turned out just fine."

It certainly did. Today, satinskin Ramon Mendoza is counted among the most popular Mexican athletes in the world. And that, dear readers, covers an awful lot of territory. ☐

# Losing Your Hair?

## Hair Thinning

### Do You Have Dandruff Itchy Scalp?



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Baldness is simply a matter of subtraction. When the number of new hairs fail to equal the number of falling hair, you end up minus your head of hair (bald). Why not avoid baldness by preventing unnecessary loss of hair? Why not eliminate needless causes of hair loss and give Nature a chance to grow more hair for you? Many of the country's dermatologists and other foremost hair and scalp specialists believe that seborrhea, a common scalp disorder, causes hair loss. What is seborrhea? It is a bacterial infection of the scalp that can eventually cause permanent damage to the hair follicles. Its visible evidence is "thinning" hair. Its end result is baldness. Its symptoms are dry, itchy scalp, dandruff, oily hair, head scales, and progressive hair loss.

So, if you are beginning to notice that your forehead is getting larger, beginning to notice that there is too much hair on your comb, beginning to be worried about the dryness of your hair, the itchy scalp of your scalp, the ugly dandruff—these are Nature's Red Flags warning you of impending baldness. Even if you have been losing your hair for some time, don't let seborrhea rob you of the rest of your hair.

It offers the opportunity to thousands of men and women losing their hair to bacterial infection to reverse the battle they are now losing on their scalps. By stopping this obstacle to normal hair growth, new hairs can grow as Nature intended.

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In short, Comate offers you in a single treatment the best that modern medicine has developed for the preservation of your hair. There is no excuse today except ignorance for any man or woman to neglect seborrhea and pay the penalty of hair loss.

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But don't delay. For the sake of your hair, order Comate today. Nothing—not even Comate—can grow hair from dead follicles. Fill out the coupon now, and take the first step toward a good head of hair again.

Male pattern baldness is the cause of the great majority of causes of baldness and excessive hair loss. In such cases neither the Comate treatment nor any other treatment is effective.

**Note To Doctors**  
Doctors, clinics and hospitals interested in scalp disorders can obtain professional samples and literature on written request.

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—Mrs. J. E. Lisbon, Ga.

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—Mrs. H. J. McComb, Miss.

"I've used a good many different 'tonics.' But until I tried Comate, I had no results. Now I'm rid of dandruff, and itchy scalp. My hair looks thicker."  
—G. E., Alberta, Canada

"I used to comb out a handful of hair at a time. Now I only get 4-6 on my comb. The terrible itching has stopped."  
—L.H.M., Los Angeles, Cal.

"My hair has improved. It used to fall out by handfuls. Comate stopped it from falling out."  
—D.M.H., Oklahoma City, Okla.

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## **BILLY ROBINSON**

Billy should spend most of the year in this country and return to his native England for no more than two weeks at a time. The stars say that familiar places can only bring hard luck and sorrow. Familiar friends, however, will be a constant source of inspiration for Billy. His career had been adversely affected by the planet Mars but that has passed. The planet Mercury will determine his professional life this year and can only mean good things for Billy. However, Robinson will be well advised to not make any important decisions or commitments for the first month and a half. Even a match in April will be adversely affected if it is arranged in January. Billy should avoid wrestlers who are under the influence of the planet Saturn during the Spring. Otherwise, success will be his. His personal life should go smoothly, allowing him to concentrate on his career. Travel in any form is desirable, but he should avoid going south during the summer. Nobody should worry about him during October and November, when his career will reach its zenith.



## **JOHNNY POWERS**

This should be the year that Johnny Powers becomes a national wrestling star. His stars say the man will have the best or close to the best year of his career. In the next 12 months, he should travel extensively throughout the world and win new fans while pleasing his many old ones. His greatest successes should occur during the spring and summer, while late fall would be a good time for Johnny to take a vacation. Opponents with their signs in Pisces and Taurus should be avoided during the early spring. It would be dangerous for Johnny to wrestle in Canada during the late fall, greater danger being in traveling than in any opponent. In his personal life, Johnny will continue to have a blissful marriage and good home. He may have some friction with friends in the summer, but it will pass by late August with no permanent damage. This will be a great year for Johnny Powers—and his fans.



## **BRUISER**

Tensions brought on by the planet Neptune may adversely affect Bruiser's personality, especially during the summer. Look for Bruiser to continue all feuds, but you can count on the matches becoming more brutal and vicious. There is a high probability of injury during late fall. The seriousness of the injury depends upon the opponent. Almost certain disaster would result if Bruiser got into the ring with a Capricorn. Friends should try to keep Bruiser from wrestling during October and November. Those with a sign in Libra will have the most affect upon him. But those with their sign in Cancer will only make matters worse if they try to interfere. Bruiser can avoid much of the trouble if he limits his travel in early spring. Traveling anywhere in the south will make for unpredictable results, but tragedy will result if he stays in any one southern location for more than two months. It will be best for Bruiser if he stays up north as much as possible. His good health may deteriorate during the late fall and he should seek medical attention for any slight ailment. An injury to an opponent may have a great effect upon Bruiser. He may end the career of a Gemini.





## RAY STEVENS

Stevens' rampage of injuring opponents will probably continue until late spring when the tables will be reversed. An injury may occur if Stevens wrestles a Taurus during April. Summer will be a time of strained relations with business associates, so don't be surprised if you hear about Stevens and Nick Bockwinkle thinking of ending their tag team partnership. If they do end their partnership, it will not be a friendly separation. It is suggested they remain together, because a feud at this time will result in tragic results for one of them. If they can stay together, they will have the greatest success of their career in late fall. Opponents should be wary of Stevens in June when he should have his greatest solo success. In his personal life, Stevens will experience great happiness for the first six months of the year. This happiness will make the following six months tolerable. If he is injured, the personal happiness may last longer due to the consideration following tragedy.



## MAD DOG VACHON

Professionally, this will be a year of great conflicts for Vachon. With Uranus in conjunction with Pluto, there will be no moderation in Mad Dog's life. He will either be gloriously victorious or disasterously defeated. He will have many of both matches in the coming year. He will do well to avoid wrestling those with their sign in Taurus, especially during the spring when his career could possibly end. Capricorns will be his patsies throughout the year and many will have to be hospitalized. The summer will see a slight mellowing of personality because of a planned vacation. Due to false friends, the vacation will be a poor one and his disposition will suffer. He will be his most vicious during the fall, but also most prone to minor injury. He should travel extensively during the late fall but avoid the midwest. Plane travel will not be dangerous, but uncomfortable. In his personal life, a tragedy will occur that will haunt him for years. This year will be a bad one for forming new friendships and financial speculation. No major decisions should be made until Uranus is no longer in conjunction with Pluto.

## JOHN TOLOS

This will be a year for Tolos to avenge all hurts, real or imaginary. Leos and Cancers will receive the brunt of his anger and will pay dearly. He will be unstoppable during the late summer if an injury outside the ring doesn't keep him sidelined for months. Look for a crisis early in the spring, perhaps even during March. The implications of the crisis are unclear, but they will limit his travel. His health is in great danger during the late fall and a doctor should be at his side constantly. Under no circumstances should he travel past a 200-mile radius of L.A. during this period. If he accepts financial advice from a Gemini it will prove successful, except during the late summer months. August would be a good month to travel abroad with special consideration given to South America. A pleasure cruise will be the most enjoyable form of travel. Under no circumstances should John form any lasting friendships. It will be a difficult but eventually rewarding year for John Tolos. □



## SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from Page 15)

### KEEP DUBOIS AND CASTILLO

It's high time we had some truly exciting tag team wrestling duo that is willing to crack skulls. Michel Dubois and Fidel Castillo are just what wrestling needs now!

Simply because Europe and Canada have banned them for being too brutal is no reason that we have should prejudge them. American wrestling can always use two guys who aren't afraid to give the opposition the works.

Let's face it—to get people angry enough to follow you angrily back to your hotel means you've got to have something. Dubois and Castillo really have something. I can't wait to see them destroy two guys very soon.

ROBERT WYMAN  
Boulder, Colo.

### SAVE THE STOMPER

How can anyone believe that about a great champion like the Stomper? He's everything that a champion should be—a winner!

If the other wrestlers can't take it, let them find some easier work—like selling ladies' lingerie. Wrestling is a sport for winners who do whatever it takes to win. I'm proud to say I'm one of Stomper's greatest fans and watch him every time he's in the area.

The Stomper is the kind of wrestler who isn't afraid to hurt or get hurt. Instead of forbidding him to wrestle, he should be made a national hero.

MAE CHWAST  
Luhmann, Okla.

### THE CHIEF'S REVENGE

I am writing to let Chief Jay Strongbow know that his fans are delighted that he beat the stuffings out of Jim Valiant. We're even more delighted that he plans to continue to pound Valiant around the ring in the future.

Perhaps the Chief did lose his temper, but Valiant deserves everything he got! Betraying a friendship is the lowest thing any man can do.

Keep doing your stuff, Chief; you're fans are behind you.

DAVE ROBB  
Eugene, Oregon

## REGGIE PARKS—THE MAN WITH THE IRON STOMACH

(Continued from page 41)

stopped Reggie from his daily gym workouts. There's an old adage that says "if you take care of your body it'll take care of you." Reggie fully believes in it and is quick to admit that "so far it's done just that." And to make sure it continues doing that Reggie does one thousand situps every day to maintain his trim and strengthen his incredible stomach muscles. In addition, he still continues his full routine of weightlifting. At 6-1 and 230 pounds, Reggie

looks more like a Greek statue than a professional athlete. In fact, famous Nebraska promoter Joe Dusek, after seeing Reggie for the first time, said "He looks the way a man's supposed to look!"

One man who'll attest to Reggie's "iron stomach" is arch rival Larry Hennig, who broke his wrist trying to put a dent into Parks' abdomen.

"You hear stories about how hard his stomach is," Hennig recalled, "but you feel you've just got to try it once."



Reggie hip-rolls Hiro Hamaguchi during a match in Nebraska. Reggie had little trouble subduing the Japanese giant. Even though Parks is a big star as a single, his goal is the world tag team championship for he and teammate Stan Pulaski.

Sweet Daddy Siki has Parks bent over as Reggie tries to get away from Sweet Daddy's attack with a mirror. Siki was angered after he failed to make Parks even breathe hard when he jumped off the top rope onto Reggie's stomach in a pre-match demonstration of Parks' iron stomach.





It's like they say...experience is the best teacher. I'd heard about it but I couldn't really believe it until I tried it myself. Well I tried it and broke my wrist on the damn thing!"

Fans in the midwest get a kick when a new wrestler who hasn't heard about Reggie's stomach muscles comes into the area. They're always anxious to watch the facial expressions of new men testing Reggie's stomach for the first time.

When Ray Stevens injured his leg in a match against Reggie, the Australian was as concerned about the injury as was Ray. Because one week later, Parks and Pulaski were supposed to wrestle Stevens and Nick Bockwinkle for the A.W.A. tag team championship—a championship they had an excellent chance of winning. But Stevens was injured worse than anybody realized and he had to pull out of the match. Because of that, Tarzan Tyler substituted and the match became a non-title affair. And Tyler, who'd been wrestling mostly in the east and southeast, knew nothing about Reggie's "iron stomach."

He found out soon enough.

Trapping Parks in the corner, Tarzan started pounding away with no apparent effect. If anything, it served as a respite for Reggie. For Tyler, it served as a lesson in frustration. He kept pounding away and pounding away while Reggie just stood there and smiled.

"What's with this guy!" Tyler screamed. He finally got so angry he just walked away from Parks, stormed back to his corner, tagged Bockwinkle and refused to return to the ring if Reggie was in there!

Reggie holds various regional titles and came very close to upsetting champion Verne Gagne. But right now his goal is the A.W.A. tag team title for he and Pulaski.

Despite his reputation, people are still trying their luck against Reggie's stomach. During one recent card he invited any member of the audience to try his luck. A burly, 300-pound truck driver climbed through the ropes and threw his best shot into Reggie's middle. Reggie didn't even say "Ooof." The truck driver, shaking his wrist to make sure nothing was broken, just walked back to his seat in disbelief. The iron stomach had made another believer. ☐

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# APARTMENT HOUSE WRESTLING

(Continued from Page 37)



*Janet leaps on Anne's back (above left) and presses her head with her hands. Anne is about to fall on her face, and Janet will be ready with some painful hold. The redhead is the one applying the pain (above right) as she forces Janet's legs apart as the blonde is near tears. Janet is helpless (below) as Anne tightens her grip on her head between her legs.*

It made it much harder for Anne to scream and it made the redhead hurt much more. Then Janet's kicking foot sometimes missed the stomach and landed further below. Anne was in agony now.

But the intense pain somehow gave her more strength. The redhead twisted her legs until they were free of the blonde's hands. Then she sent both legs at once kicking into Janet's stomach. You could hear the air rushing out from the impact.

Anne was determined to put Janet through as much hell as possible. She pushed the blonde onto the floor and put a headlock on her. Janet screamed and struggled but couldn't get away.

Janet made her way to her feet but the headlock was still clamped tightly. There was no escape.

To make it worse, the angry redhead grabbed the blonde's hair so roughly she felt it was being yanked out of her head. It didn't take long for Janet's voice to become hoarse from her constant screaming.

Anne grasped Janet by her legs and started to pull them apart in the same

painful way the blonde tried before. She soon let her legs drop and started stepping all over the girl, until Janet felt like every ounce of strength was crushed out of her.

But Anne wasn't about to let up. She grabbed the blonde's toes and bit into them until her teeth broke the skin and blood appeared. She grabbed the girl's knee and tightly pressed it while she was digging her nails into her thigh with the other hand.

She dragged Janet half way to her feet and clamped her head between her legs like a grapefruit while the blonde's screams echoed through the apartment. She was punching her head while squeezing it with her legs.

Then she dragged the blonde fully to her feet and twisted her arm behind her almost to the point of breaking it. Anne kicked her to the floor, and while the horrified girl could do nothing but watch, scratched her nails into her cheek until the blood appeared. She bit into it to make the cut even deeper.

Now it was time to let Janet get some rest, for she was obviously in terrible agony. Anne let her go and Janet went to wash the cut. But this was Anne's mistake.

When Janet returned she was yearning for revenge. She kicked Anne in the stomach until she fell to the floor.







*Janet screams as Anne slowly forces the blonde's legs apart. It got to the point where Janet felt she was being torn into pieces. But the blonde finished the victor. Anne wound up leaving Janet's apartment in pain and defeat, never wanting to bother her again.*

Then she started choking her, not stopping until Anne's face began turning blue.

"You poor girl!" yelled Janet. She cradled Anne's head in her hands, but not for comfort. She started digging her hands into her face. Every time her nails dug really deep, Anne's entire body would jerk in pain.

Then she kicked her repeatedly in the stomach. She turned the redhead over on her sore stomach, pulled her to her feet by her hair, and dropped her.

The redhead was able to get to her feet only to find her arm twisted behind her and Janet's teeth biting into it. She screamed from the terrible pain. It felt like those teeth were digging right into the muscle.

The redhead was pushed to the floor and found her body twisted in pain as Janet worked her arm over again. It was twisted painfully behind her and Anne couldn't stop screaming.

"Have you had enough?" asked Janet. "Or do you want me to really teach you a lesson?"

"No, no!" screamed Anne. "I can't take another second of it. Please let me go. I'll go home and I promise to never bother you again."

Janet let her get up. As the redhead dressed, Janet could see her every move caused her pain. She had really learned a lesson.

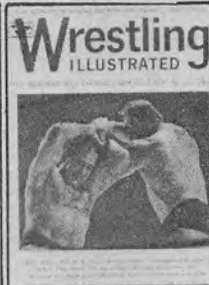
Anne opened the door and left the apartment without looking back. The photographer left also. ☐

## BACK ISSUES OF THE FAMOUS WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED

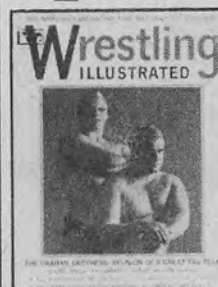
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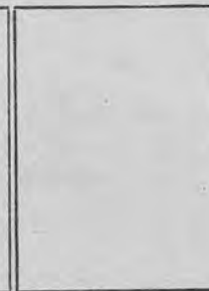
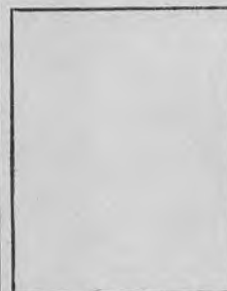
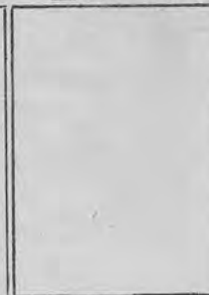
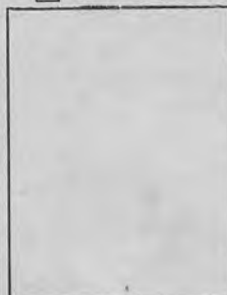
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# VERNE GAGNE

(Continued from Page 24)

of the all-time greats even if he retired tomorrow—he still strives to make himself a better wrestler. He never stops working on improving his techniques. Despite his success, Verne has never allowed himself to relax or sit back and enjoy the fruits of his labor. He works every bit as hard now as he did when he was a youngster fresh out of the University of Minnesota.

When a man has been a champion for as long as Gagne has, it would not be unusual for him to curtail his schedule and enjoy his family life more.

But that's not the case with Verne. The role of a world champion, as all world champions have found out, is a lonely one. Everyone wants a crack at your title and some will go to any means to take that title. Verne does not like to turn down any worthy challengers so his schedule often calls for him to be in Omaha, Nebraska, one day and up in Canada the next. He's on the road so much he's practically a stranger to his family. So to help compensate for this, he spends as much time as possible at his home in Minnesota and enjoys

family outings and skiing and horseback riding.

Verne does a little weight-lifting but doesn't depend on weights to keep fit. For that he relies on the old tried and true standbys like push-ups, leg raises and knee bends. His limited use of weights leads him to admit "I'm not very strong. I prefer to train for agility and speed rather than brute strength." It has certainly paid off. Because Verne weighs exactly the same 228 pounds he weighed more than 20 years ago when he first broke into wrestling! And in the modern world of the super athlete, Verne's 228 pounds is indeed small. His record against heavier and stronger adversaries, therefore, becomes even more impressive.

While there are still areas, as we have seen, that do not consider Gagne the champion, there is nobody in the sport who will attempt to refute his long and successful career. Still, Gagne does not feel bad about being viewed as one of three world champions. He feels he is the true champion and the others will have to beat him before they can get worldwide recognition as a *world* champion.

Gagne's reign has not gone uninterrupted. Putting up with the severest kind of physical punishment, Verne has almost always managed to hold onto his title. But even the rare times he was beaten in title matches—he always managed to win the crown right back. You might be able to upset Verne on one of his off nights, but nobody's beaten him twice in a row when that championship has been at stake.

Verne Gagne isn't getting any younger, and since almost every match now is a title match, which means an hour time limit against some of the best names in the business, his schedule is even more difficult than it was when he was a younger man. But week after week, year after year, Gagne continues, rolling up triumph after triumph with no end in sight.

As we said at the beginning of the story, champions have come and champions have gone. But Verne Gagne has been a champion since long before many wrestling fans were born. He is still with us. And whether one area recognizes his title or not—wrestling is much better off for having Verne Gagne around! □



If he retired today Verne Gagne would be assured of a most prominent place in wrestling history. But he still goes to the gym and lifts weights (above) every day—just as he did when he first broke in as a youngster. Right: Verne ends this match by trapping Jack Allen in a Bow And Arrow. No wrestler has a better knowledge of holds than the A.W.A. king.

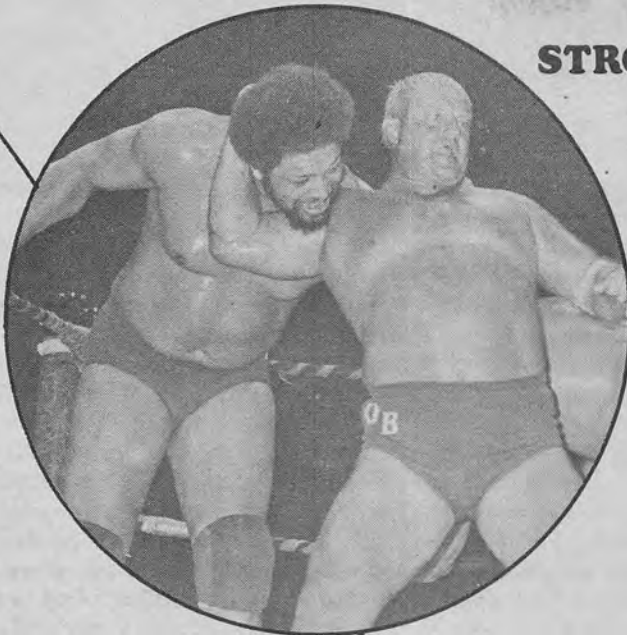




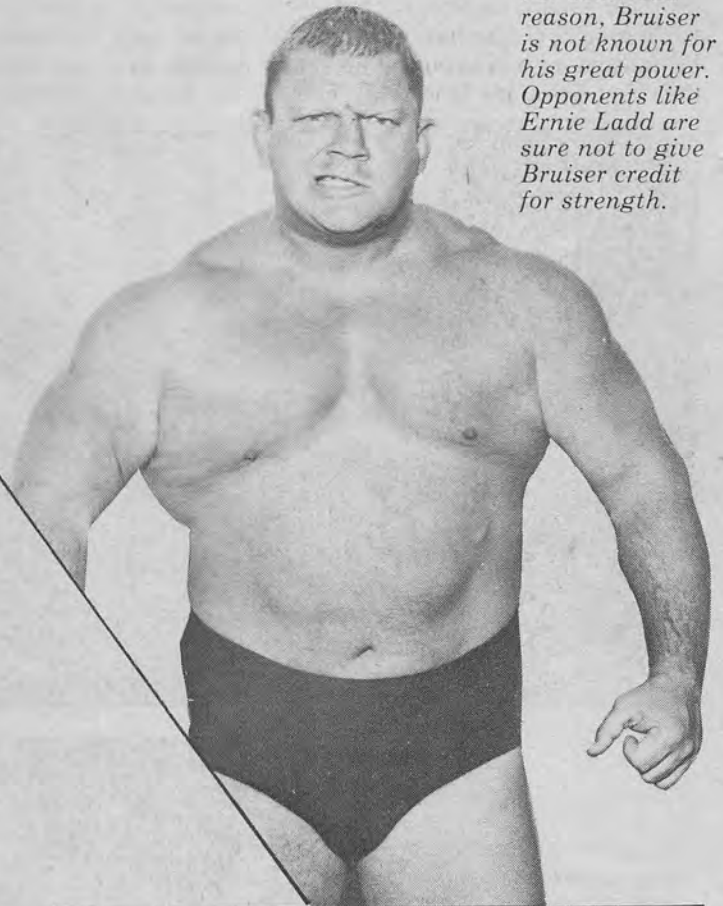
## STRONGEST MEN *(Continued from Page 30)*

**P**ROBABLY the most underrated of wrestling's strong men is BRUISER. While everyone knows of his courage and cunning, few realize that Bruiser can bench press over 500 pounds. He is always in excellent physical condition. His training schedule is both rigorous and grueling. Some days he spends eight to 10 hours in the gymnasium, and he claims lifting weights is his most enjoyable form of recreation. Bruiser can press 375 pounds, snatch 320 pounds (though not regularly), and deadlift 600 pounds. He has no professional trainer, though he recommends professional assistance in the first year.

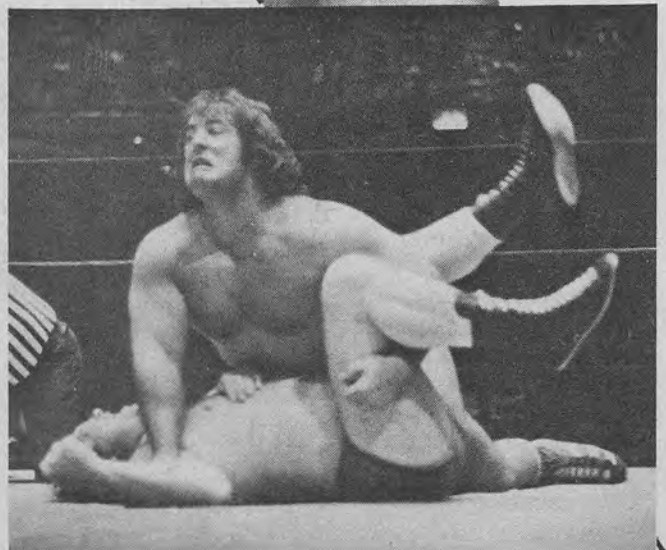
*For some odd reason, Bruiser is not known for his great power. Opponents like Ernie Ladd are sure not to give Bruiser credit for strength.*



*Iron Mike McCord is a former college weightlifting champ who now uses his strength to make his opponents miserable.*



**F**ROM inter-collegiate champion to feared wrestler comes IRON MIKE McCORD. In his college days, McCord was probably the most famous weightlifter in his conference. He bench-pressed over 600 pounds to win the championship, a conference record. Opponents are awed by his tireless strength and conditioning. He can trap an opponent in a bearhug almost indefinitely without his grip ever weakening. His legscissor is almost as effective. Mike has a full-time trainer who scientifically decides how much he should lift and the ways he should lift it. His schedule calls for weight workouts six days a week and running on the seventh. □



## BREAKING THE SIZE BARRIER

(Continued from Page 33)

among southern California's large Mexican-American population, it is expected that welterweight wrestling will work out the same in Texas. Chavo Guerrero, one of the most popular welterweight wrestlers appearing in Texas, explains why.

"Many Mexicans, who are of small stature, can't really identify with the big heavyweights either in boxing or wrestling. In boxing, only Manuel Ramos is a ranked heavyweight. In wrestling, there's Mil Mascaras, Bull Ramos, El Sicodelico, Pantera Negro and a few others. But you take a look at the smaller divisions in boxing and there are Mexican and Mexican-American champions and top challengers all the way through. And the crowds they draw is evidence of their popularity with our people. We can identify with smaller athletes. I think wrestling matches among non-heavyweights is a wave of the future in wrestling. I foresee nothing but success—especially in areas with large Mexican-American or Puerto Rican-American populations."

Juan Timon, a masked 145-pounder, wanted to be a wrestler for as far back as he can remember. He can also remember crying himself to sleep at night because he knew he'd never be big enough to turn pro and earn a living at the sport he loves best.

"Athletics are everything to me," Juan explained. "Ever since I was a kid I wanted nothing else but to be an athlete. In high school and in amateur sports there are many opportunities for someone my size. Boxing, wrestling, gymnastics, track, everything. But look at the professional sports world. Pro football players are all 200-pounders and up. To play pro basketball you have to be at least over six feet. Even in baseball there aren't too many men my size. Wrestling was out of the question altogether. Only in boxing and horse racing are there opportunities for smaller athletes to earn big money—and I'm too big to be a jockey."

"Of course, we won't earn the kind of money the heavyweight wrestlers do. Not for a long time. We're still at the stage where we have to supplement our wrestling income with outside earnings. We don't wrestle five nights a week like the heavyweights. But as welterweight wrestling catches on that situation will improve. I can see the day years from now when



*The ring isn't big enough to hold the welterweights when the action gets fast and furious. Above, the masked Timon body slams Guerrero on the apron. Back in the ring (right), Juan gets a free ride on Chavo but repays him by trying to twist his head off. All the action of heavyweight wrestling is here—and this is faster and just as wild!*



we'll earn as much as the other professional wrestlers. But right now it's a start."

Argentina Apollo, himself a small man in a world of giants, is one of the few "little men" to make it big in professional wrestling. He considers this innovation one of the best things to hit wrestling in years.

"I was lucky," Apollo admits, "because of my gymnastic ability. I'm

what you'd call flashy. But I'm small and I don't weigh very much by professional wrestling standards. Do you think I'd be where I am today if it wasn't for my gymnastic ability? Believe me, I was turned down by a large number of promoters who told me I was too small. They didn't even give me a chance to show what I could do. But for every Apollo there are a thousand young men—some of





Chavo Guerrero is lying stunned after being bodyslammed onto the hard wooden floor. But that doesn't stop Juan Timon from sailing down onto him after leaping off the top rope. "Don't think it didn't hurt," Chavo said. "Just because we're welterweights it doesn't hurt less."

whom might have been as good as or better than I—who never made it in wrestling. Either they gave up because they thought they were too small or they never got the chance because someone else thought they were too small. Now they can hope to stay in wrestling and earn a living from it by wrestling men their own size. I say it's terrific."

At first, a match between a pair of 147-pounders takes a little getting used to. When Timon and Guerrero hooked up in Amarillo they looked like a couple of high school sophomores climbing into the ring. But the viewer soon forgets about the size of the participants. Because these welterweights have all the moves of

their bigger counterparts. If anything, welterweight matches seem to be a bit more action-packed than heavyweight matches because the smaller men do a great deal more "flying"—leaping off the ropes, drop-kicking, etc.

There is no sacrifice of "strength" holds because of the evenly-matched weight categories. Body slams, tests of strength, they are all in evidence. And there is brutality as well.

During one part of the match Timon hurled Guerrero over the top rope and Chavo landed on his back in front of the first row of seats. "Believe me," he said later, "it didn't hurt any less when I landed—or when Timon stomped on me."

The two grappled inside the ring and outside as well. Each man used a number of acrobatic moves both to clamp holds on his opponent as well as to avoid having a hold clamped on him.

"Because of our size," Guerrero explained, "most matches between welterweights are faster and more gymnastically oriented. We're much more maneuverable than the big fellows. We fly higher. We move faster. People who enjoy watching wrestlers like Edouard Carpentier and Argentina Apollo would also enjoy welterweight matches. We don't spend as much time on the mat as the bigger fellows. Of course, I'm prejudiced, but I think the welterweight matches are much more exciting and fast-moving than the heavyweight matches."

The biggest problem facing the welterweights is that the concept is too new to allow the kind of exposure the heavyweights receive. Wrestlers like The Sheik and Dory Funk Jr. and Verne Gagne are known all over North America. People come to their matches specifically to see them win or get beat. The welterweights are unknown.

"Most of the fans didn't know who I was or who Timon was when we first started," Guerrero observed. "They didn't know whether to cheer or boo or what. Right now we're a drawing card because we're an oddity. The next step will be identification with our size. And eventually we'll be like the heavyweights and people will come to see us because of our individual reputations. That's when we know we're being accepted as professional wrestlers."

Can weight classifications work in professional wrestling? There's no reason why not. It has worked and is working in professional boxing. True, as in boxing, the heavyweights will always be the cream of the crop. The heavyweight fights will always draw the biggest gates and the most publicity. So will it be with the heavyweight wrestlers. But boxing has proved there is room for the talented little man. And now wrestling seems to be following that lead. For all youngsters who won't be six feet tall or weigh over 200 pounds—it comes as welcome news! □

## JOE LEDUC

(Continued from Page 44)

do have some bad feelings toward LeDuc. But this plot, as you call it, bah! It's ridiculous. Nonsense."

"LeDuc has no talent," Von Hess stressed. "If three of us are together plotting to wipe him out, which I'm not saying we are, we'd be doing wrestling a sincere favor."

Von Shotz agreed with both of them. But none of them would admit to the plot.

"There *is* one," claimed Edouard Carpentier. "I have overheard these three men in a restaurant a few weeks ago. I sat in a booth next to them and listened in. I couldn't hear all the words they were saying but Joe's name came up very often. He'd better get some help soon."

"I don't need any help," Leduc snapped when he heard of Ed's suggestion. "Look, if they want to rub me out, let 'em try. I can handle them, individually."

But that's not what the trio is looking for.

"LeDuc has said many times that he can take on three men at once," Von Shotz claimed. "We'll take him up on his offer."

"I have said that," Joe admitted. "Okay, if they want to, I will."

And they did. But man, did those three ever regret it. They wrestled tag team style, tagging fast and often. Many times they got Joe in the corner and triple teamed him. But each time, Joe overpowered them. Then, one by one, he bashed their heads into the ringposts and turnbuckles until they were three of the bloodiest messes you've ever seen. But Joe didn't get off easy either. After they were good and bloody, Von Shotz tripped Joe and then bit chunks out of his forehead. Joe was bleeding profusely now.

"Stop the match!" fans yelled seeing all the blood.

"Don't!" Leduc ordered to the referee. "I'm fine." But the referee refused to listen to Joe and stopped the match.

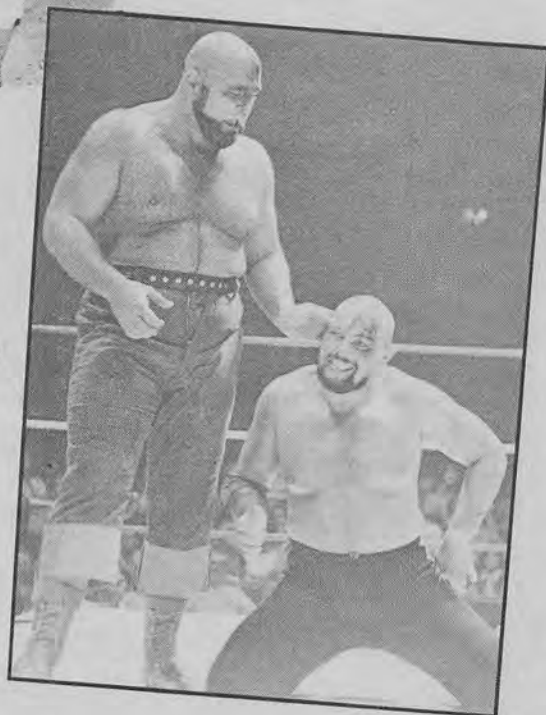
"They're lucky they got off so easy," Leduc said. "You see, they can't handle themselves against *one* man. Let 'em try it again."

And from what we hear, they're going to take Joe up on his offer again.

*Leduc (right) says, "Bring 'em on. I'm not afraid of the three of 'em. No plot is going to scare me!" Joe proves his point (below) by bashing in Dubois' head. "I'll take all three of them on at once," Joe exclaims. "LeDuc is a nothing," the three agree. "He's got to be put out to pasture for his own good. We intend to kill him."*



*Kurt Von Hess is failing in his attempts to destroy Joe (right). Joe did take on all three of them, finally, and beat them. "LeDuc was lucky," Von Hess said. "He's a madman and madmen always have a lot more power than normal people. He's an animal and should be locked in a cage!" Joe's brother, Paul, and Edouard Carpentier offered to help Joe rub out the deadly trio but Joe refused. "I can handle them" he said.*



"Next time," Von Hess stressed, "we will kill him. Leduc was lucky this time. But then a madman always has more power than you'd expect. He's a madman. He should be locked up like an animal. He's killing wrestling."

"That's right," Dubois agreed. "We will admit it. We are plotting against Joe Leduc. It's obvious now. There's

no reason to hide it. Mr. Leduc, you will not finish up this year in one piece. We will tear you limb from limb. Rip you to shreds. Make you bleed to death!"

Joe says he's not afraid.

"All I can say," he explains, "is that I have a plot planned for them. It's at the cemetery! And they'll be takin' up that plot very soon!" □





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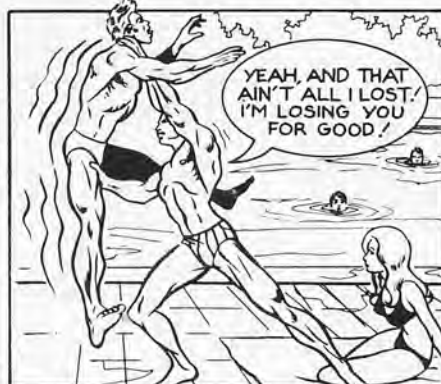
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